What's Michael?

by Makoto Kobayashi

A Hard Day's Life

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This volume collects What's Michael? stories from issues eight through fifteen of the Dark Horse comic-book series Super Manga Blast!

The artwork of this volume has been produced as a mirror image of the original Japanese edition to conform to English-language standards.

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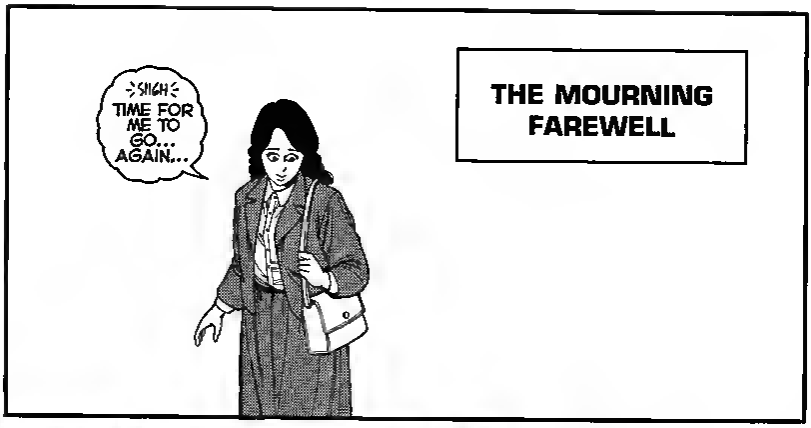
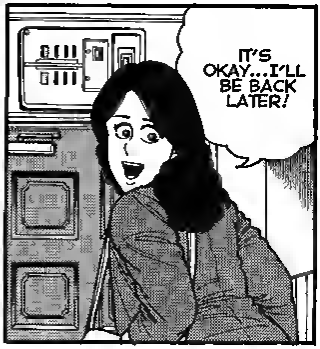

THE MOURNING FAREWELL
SIGH
TIME FOR ME TO GO... AGAIN...

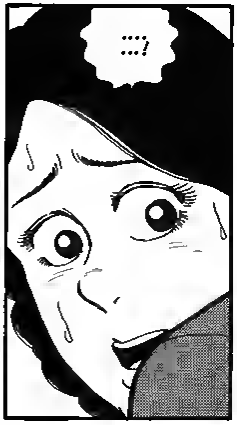
YOU GUARD THE HOUSE FOR REIKO...OKAY, MICHAEL?
PURRRR PRRRR

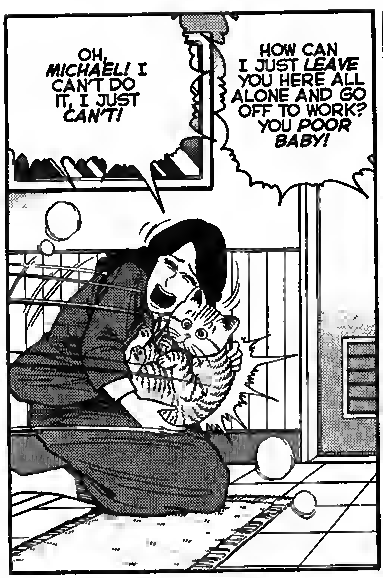

IT'S OKAY...I'LL BE BACK LATER!

MAOW...?

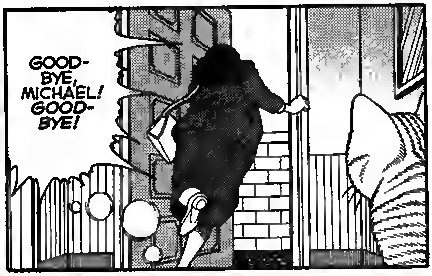
....
....

PURRRR?


....?


OH, MICHAEL! I CAN'T DO IT, I JUST CAN'T!
HOW CAN I JUST LEAVE YOU HERE ALL ALONE AND GO OFF TO WORK? YOU POOR BABY!

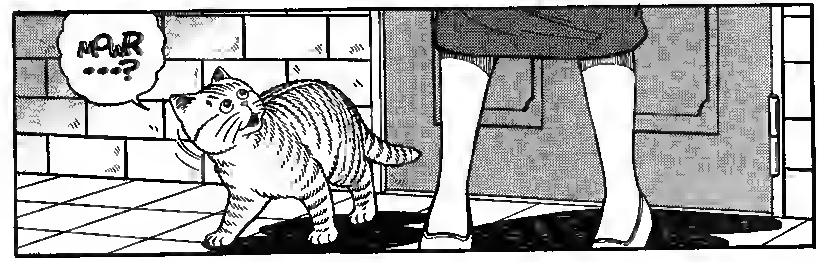
B-BUT... I MUST! I MUST GO! I HAVE TO MAKE MONEY TO BUY YOU KITTY TREATS AND TOYS AND... AND...
YOU UNDER-STAND... D-DON'T YOU?

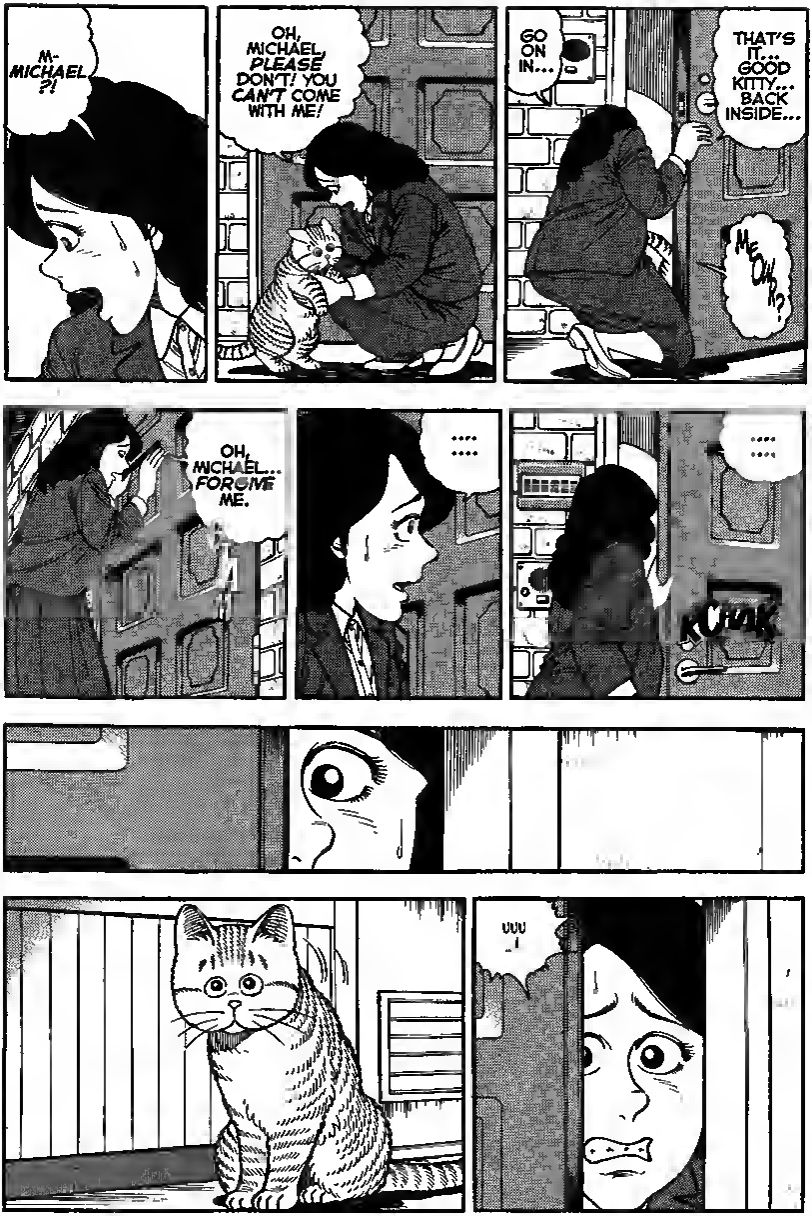

GOOD-BYE, MICHAEL! GOOD-BYE!

SLAM

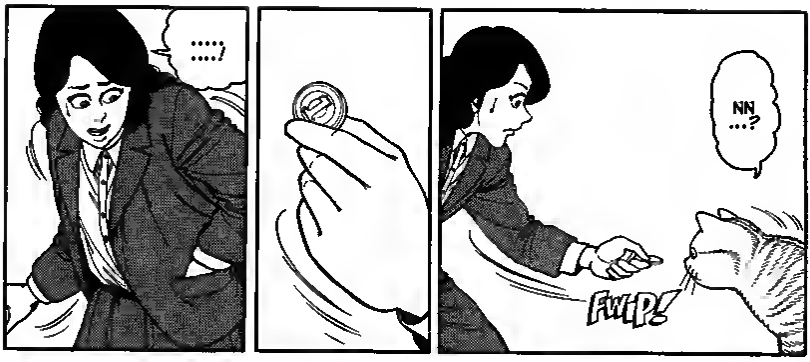
HAHH
HAHH
HAHN
HFF

HA--
?!?

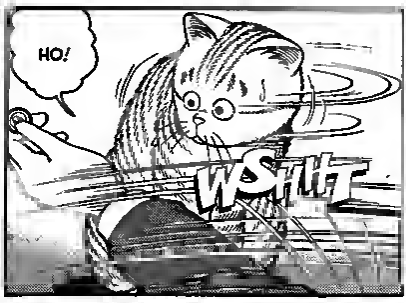

MOWR ...?

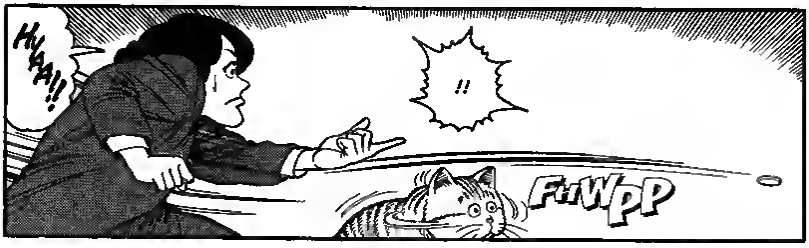

M-MICHAEL?!
OH, MICHAEL, PLEASE DON'T! YOU CAN'T COME WITH ME!
GO ON IN...
THAT'S IT... GOOD KITTY... BACK INSIDE...
MEOW?
OH, MICHAEL... FORGIVE ME.
....
....
....
....
CHAK
UUU

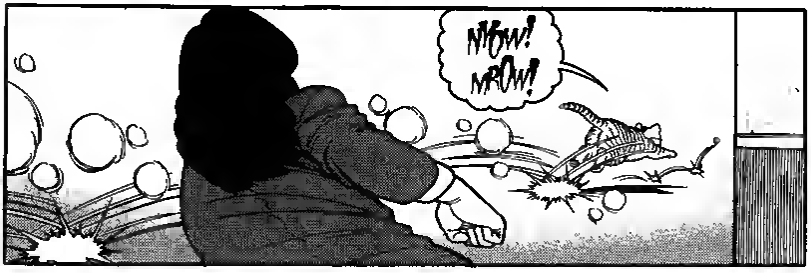
WAAH!
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART, MICHAEL!
LOOK... TELL YOU WHAT--HOW ABOUT A NICE BIG PIECE OF FRESH CRAB MEAT FOR A GOODBYE PRESENT...?
THERE-- ENJOY!
MROW!
OH NO ...!
I'M GONNA BE LATE AGAIN!
I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT! BE A GOOD BOY, MICHAEL!
BYE-BYE!
MEWR? MROWR?
N-NO! PLEASE DON'T FOLLOW ME, SWEETIE!


.....?
NN....?
FWIP!

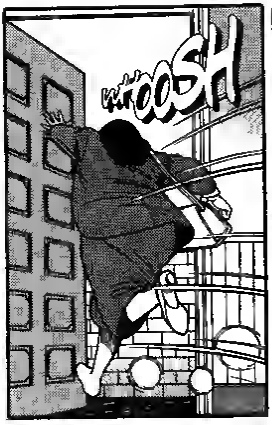
HUP!
WSHIIT


HO!
WSHIIT


HUAA!!
!!
FWPP

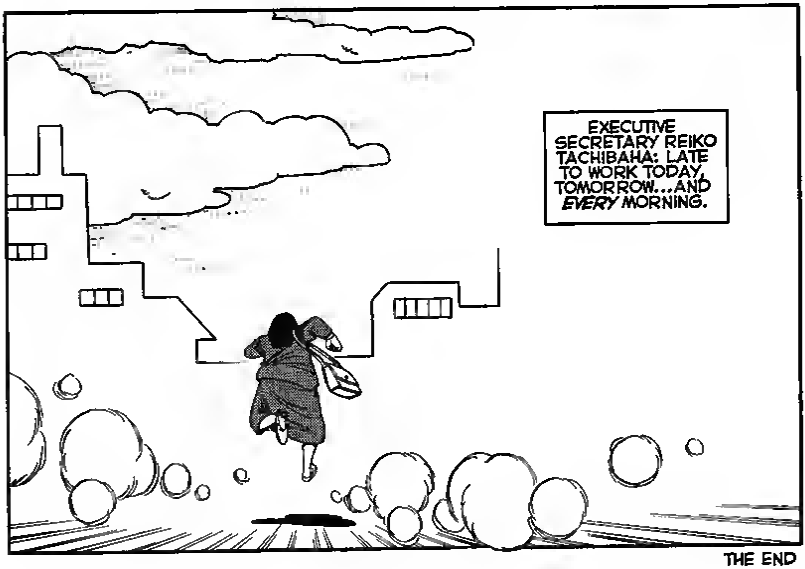

NYOW! MROW!

N-NOW! IT'S MY CHANCE!


WHOOSH

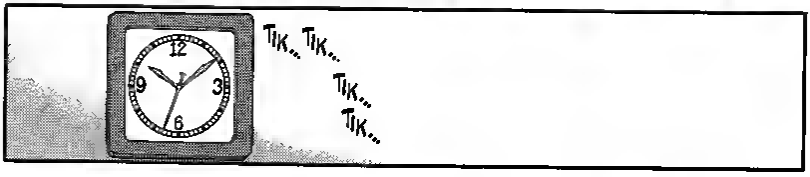
SLAM
HAH HAHH HFFH

FAREWELL... FAREWELL, UNTIL THIS EVENING, MY SWEET MICHAEL...


EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REIKO TACHIBAHA: LATE TO WORK TODAY, TOMORROW...AND EVERY MORNING.

THE END

THE GUESTS WHO WOULDN'T LEAVE: THE HORROR CONTINUES


TIK... TIK...
TIK...
TIK...

Sip

....
....

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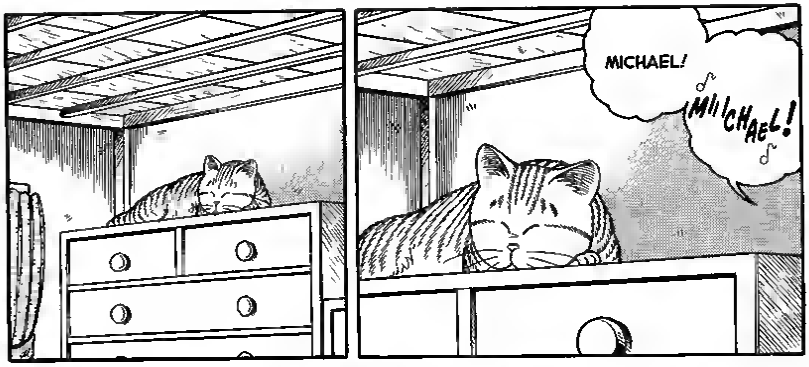
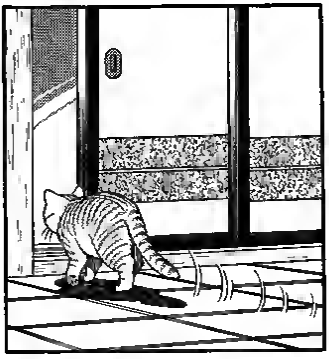
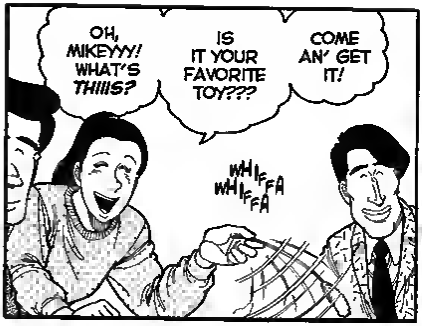
THE GUESTS WHO COULDN'T CARRY A CONVERSATION ARE STILL LINGERING...

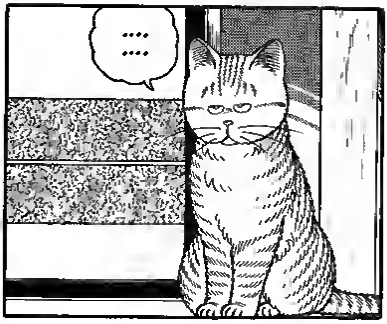

MICHAEL!
MIIICHAEL!

MICHAEL! HERE, KITTY, KITTY!



THERE-- YOU SEE? HE COMES *EVERY* TIME I CALL!
HE SURE DOES! HA HA!
WHAT A CLEVER CAT!
HA HA!
....


OH, MIKEYYY! WHAT'S THIIIS?
IS IT YOUR FAVORITE TOY???
COME AN' GET IT!
WHIFFA WHIFFA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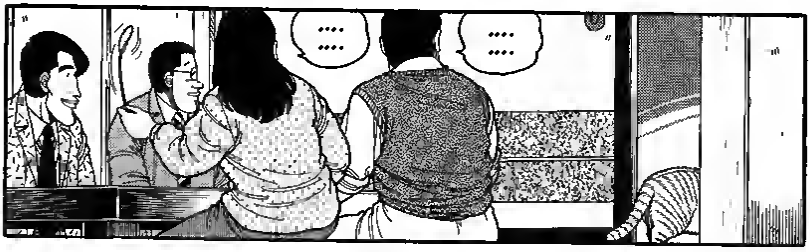
C'MON MICHAEL! GET IT! COME ON!
P—PLEASE!
WHIFFA WHIFFA

YAWN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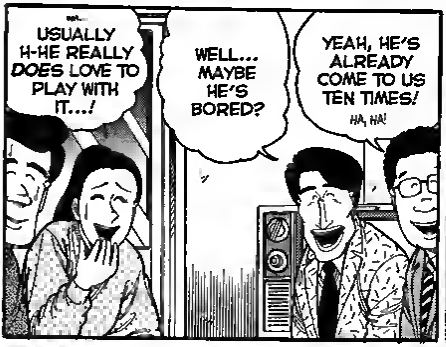
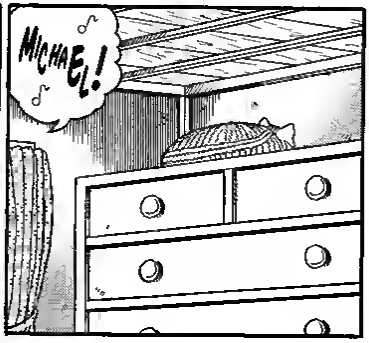
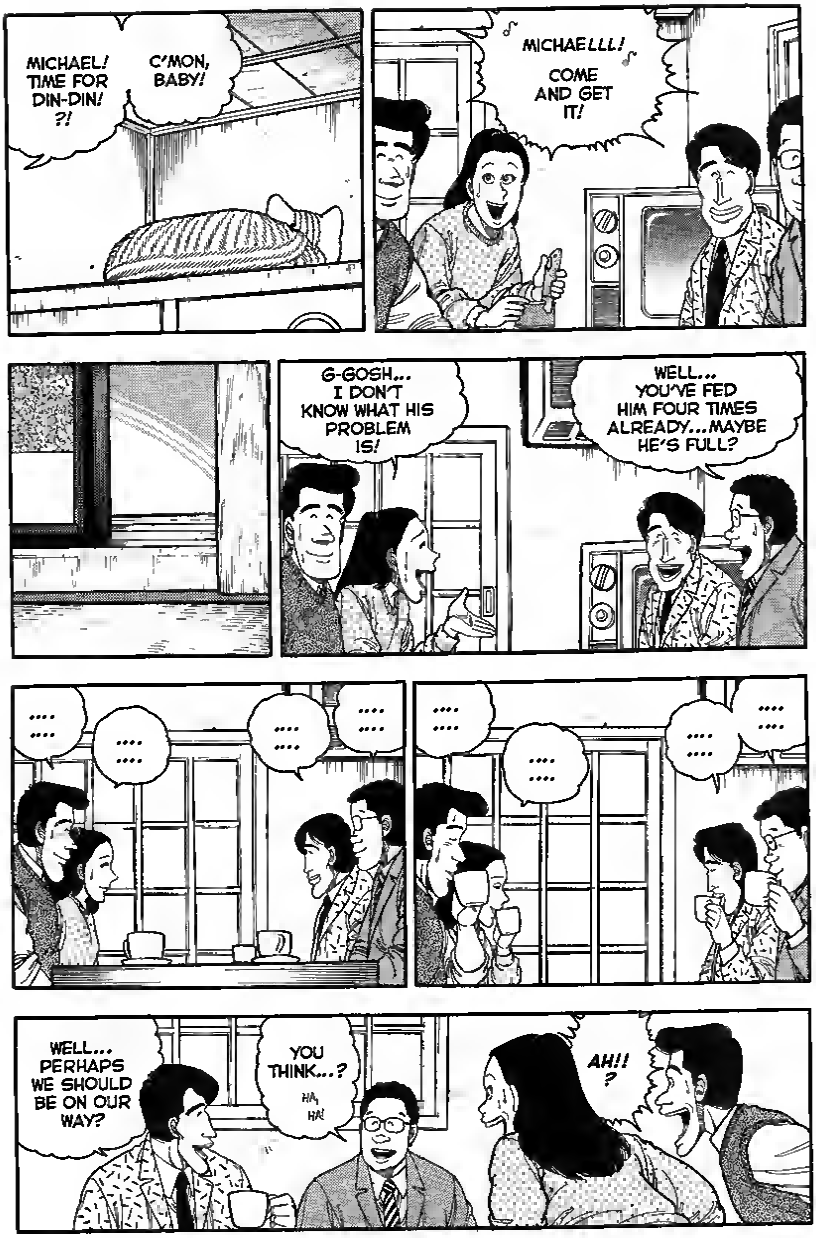
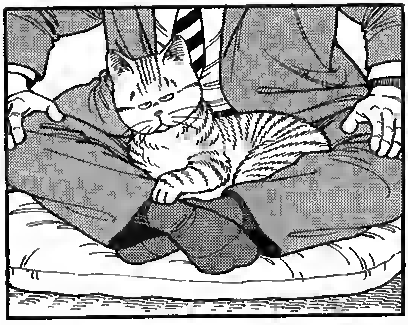
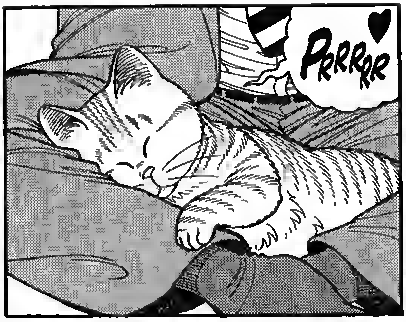

USUALLY H-HE REALLY DOES LOVE TO PLAY WITH IT...!
WELL... MAYBE HE'S BORED?
YEAH, HE'S ALREADY COME TO US TEN TIMES!
HA, HA!

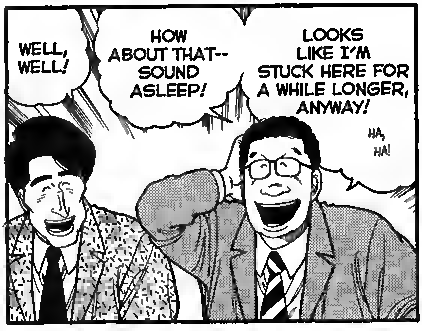

MICHAEL!

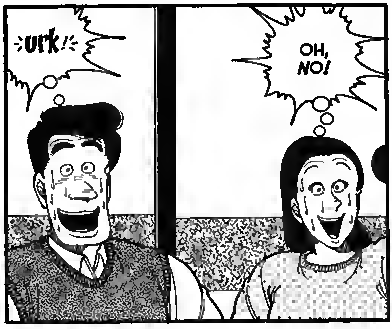

MICHAEL! TIME FOR DIN-DIN! ?!
C'MON, BABY!
MICHAELLL! COME AND GET IT!
G-GOSH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS PROBLEM IS!
WELL... YOU'VE FED HIM FOUR TIMES ALREADY...MAYBE HE'S FULL?
....
....
....
....
....
....
....
....
WELL... PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE ON OUR WAY?
YOU THINK...? HA HA!
AH!! ?

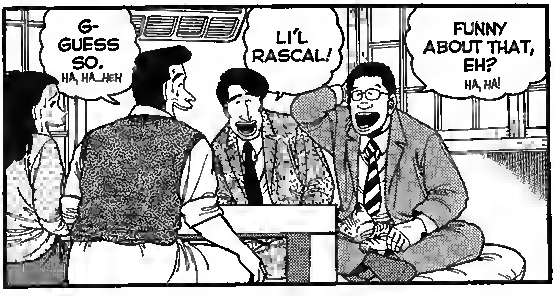
THANK GOD!
R-REALLY?! SO SOON?
GOODNESS, HOW THE EVENING FLEW!
HMM ...?
MICHAEL, YOU RASCAL! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
GO AWAY GO AWAY GO AWAY!
HELLO KITTY! HA HA!
....
....?





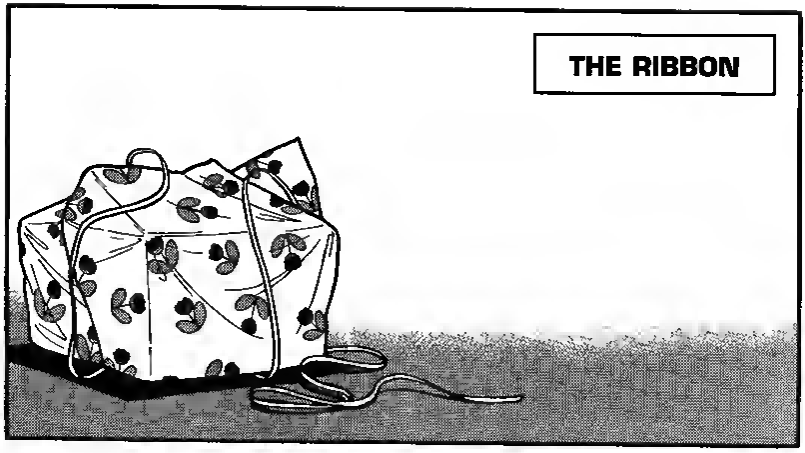


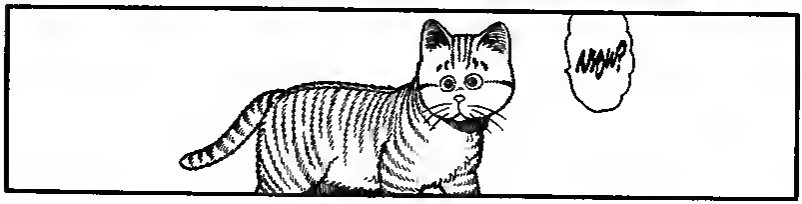


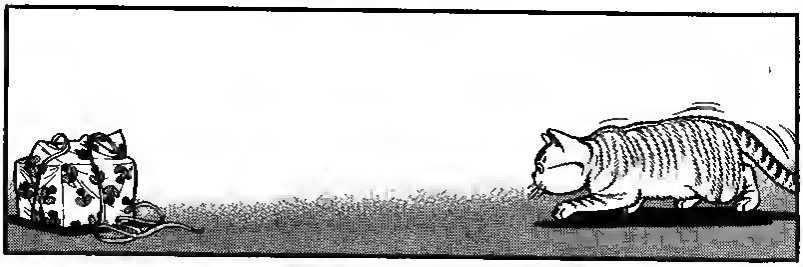


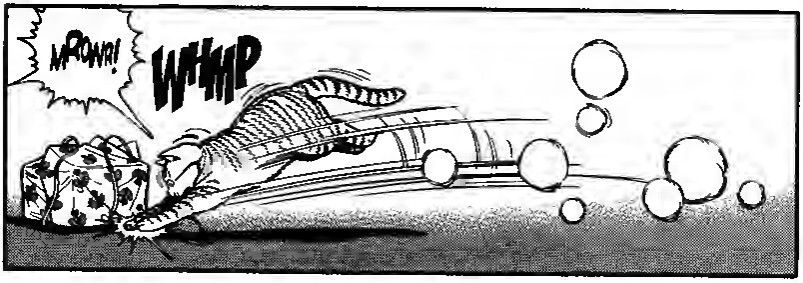
SOMETIMES MICHAEL IS NO HELP AT ALL...

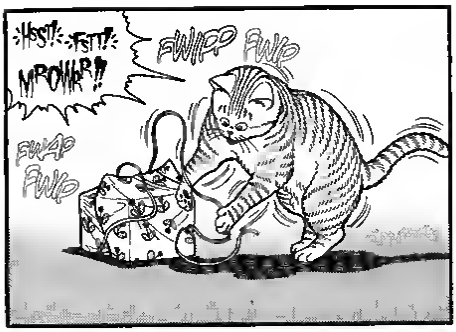
THE END

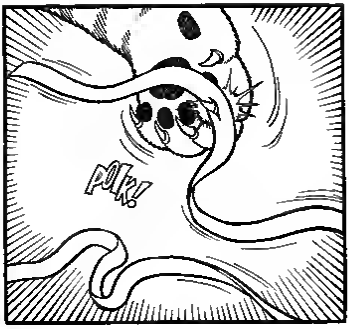

THE RIBBON

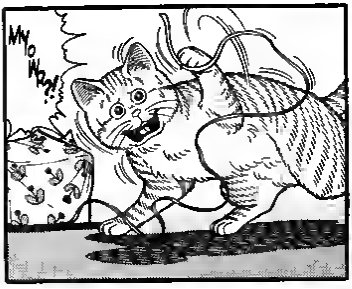

MAW?

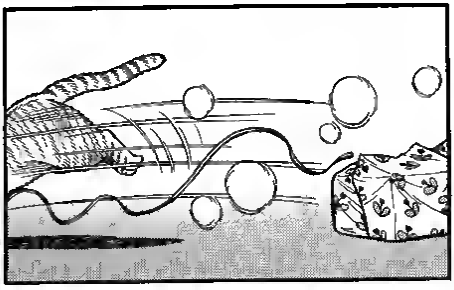


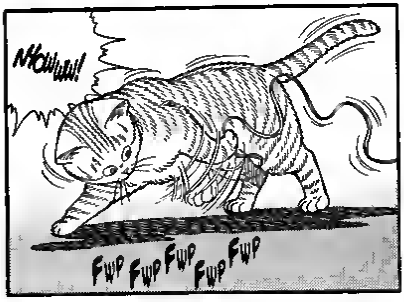

MROWR!
WHMP

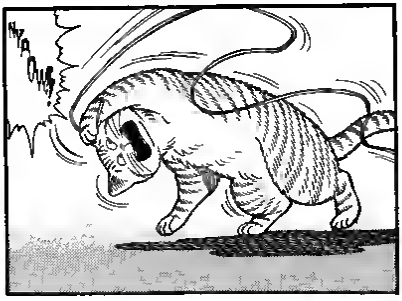

HSST!
FST!
MROWR!!
FWIPP FWP
FWAP FWP

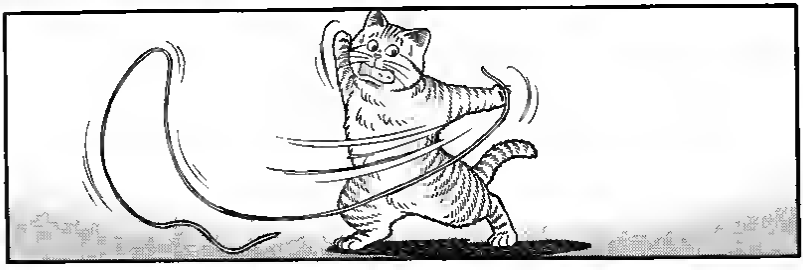

POTK!

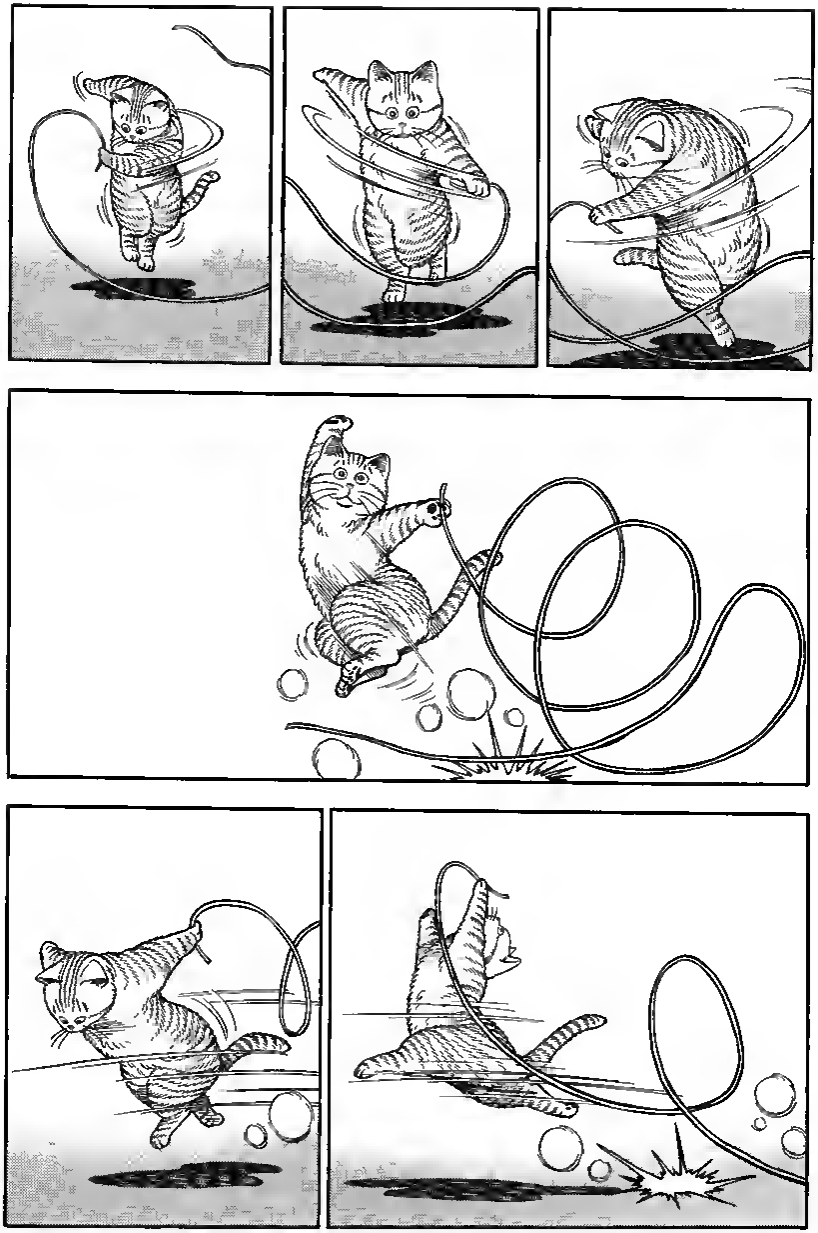

MYO WR?!

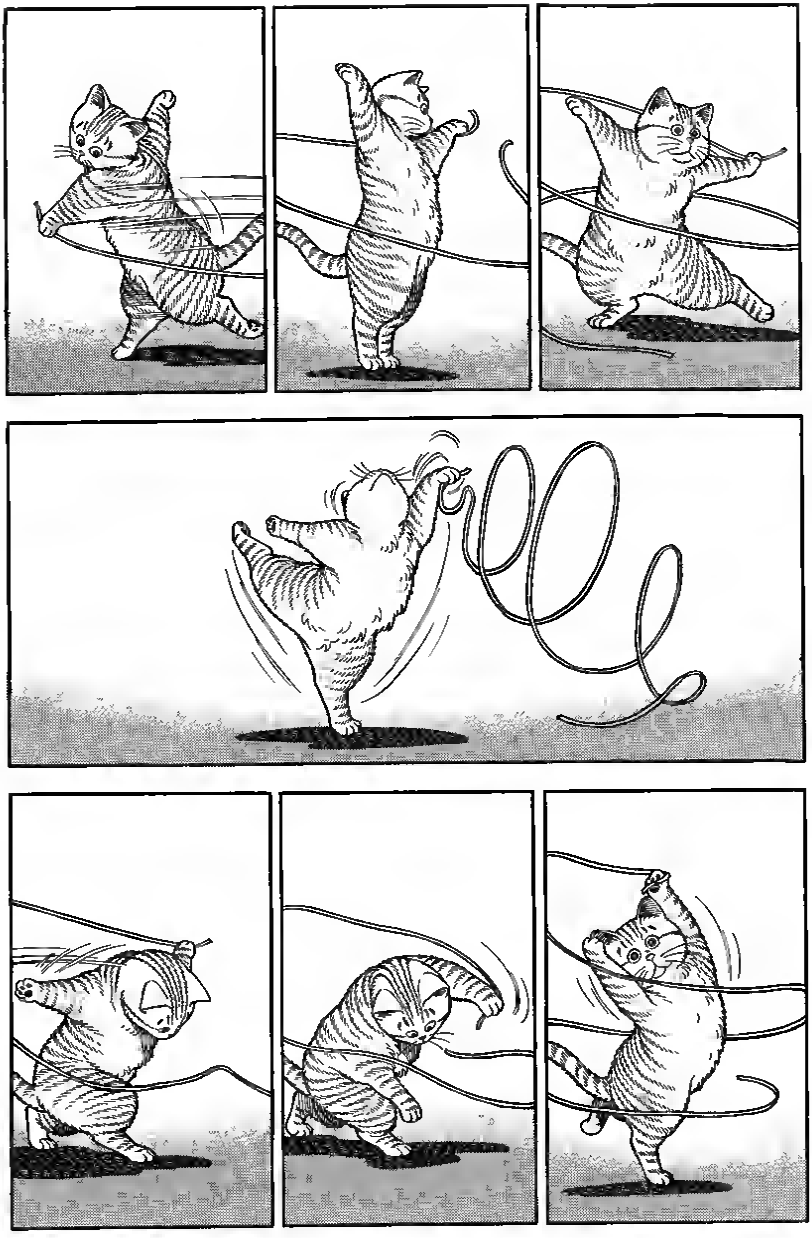


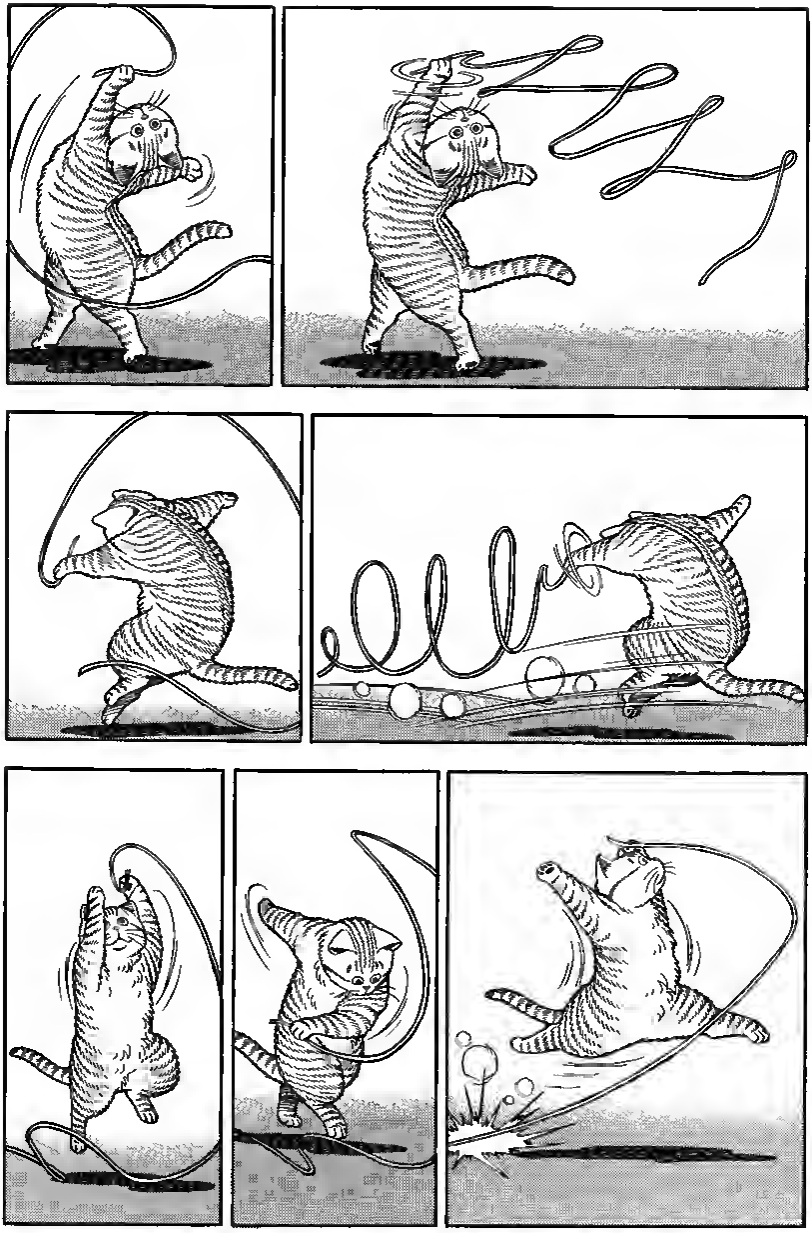

NHOWWW!!
FWP FWP FWP FWP FWP

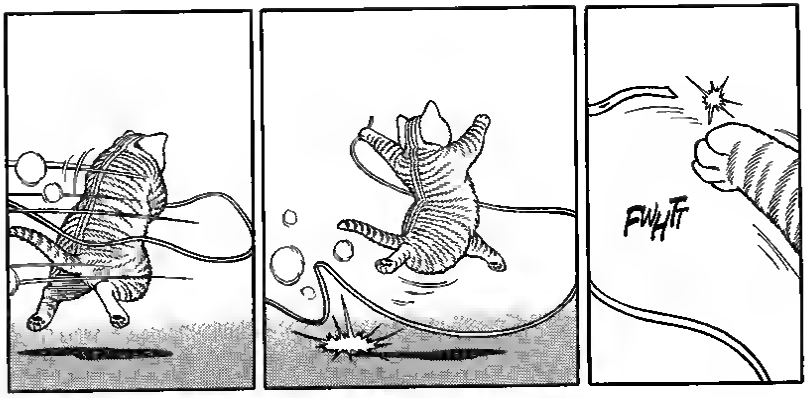

WA OWR

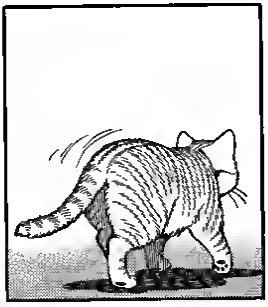


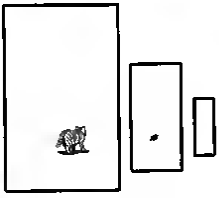




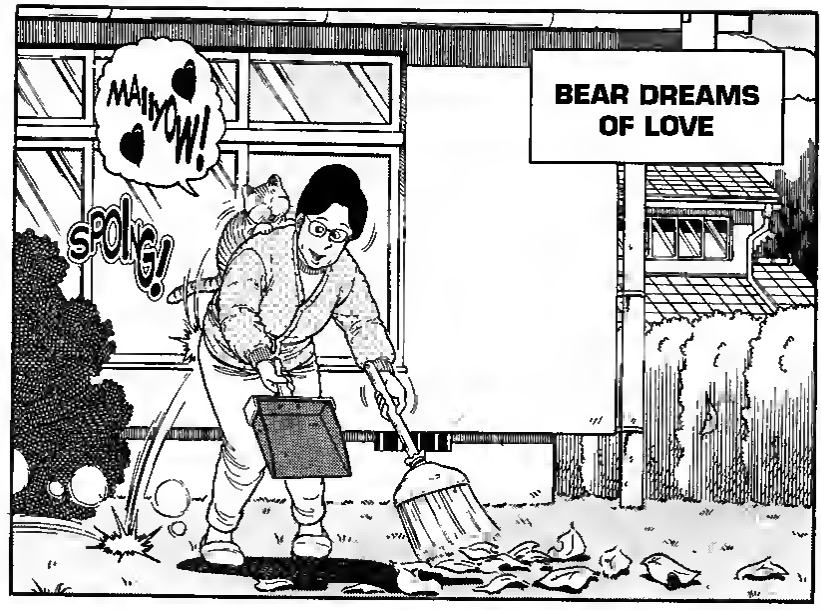




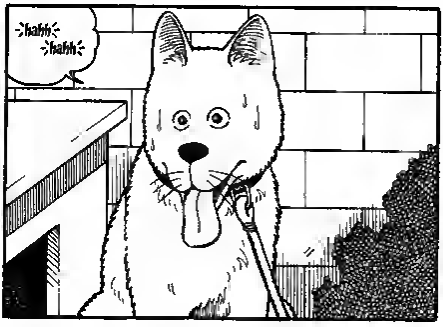




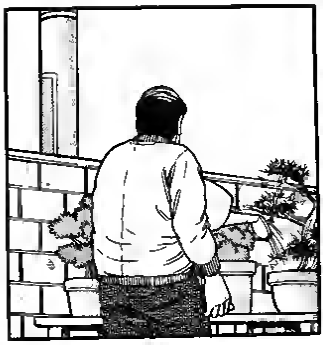
THE END


MAINYOW!
SPOING!
BEAR DREAMS OF LOVE

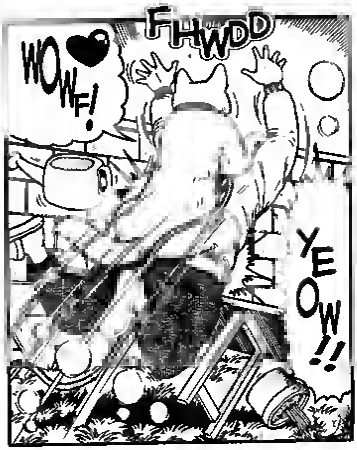
HA HA HA!
IS MIKE'S WIDDLE TUMMY GRUMBLY?
MYAH!

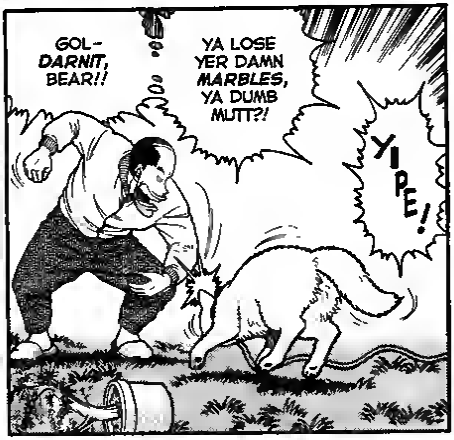

hahh hahh

....

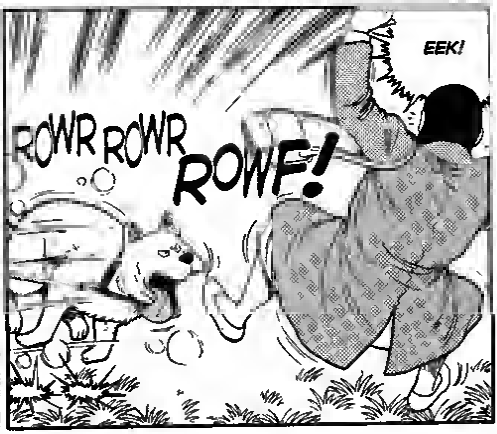


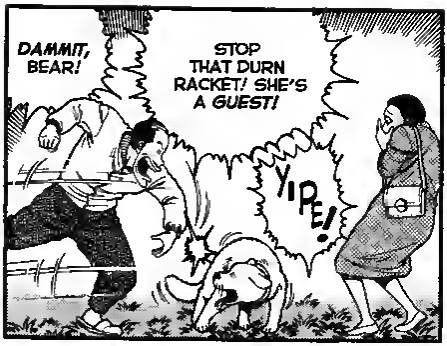
THD THD THD


WOWF!
FHWDD
YEOW!!


GOL-DARNIT, BEAR!!
YA LOSE YER DAMN MARBLES, YA DUMB MUTT?!
YIPE!

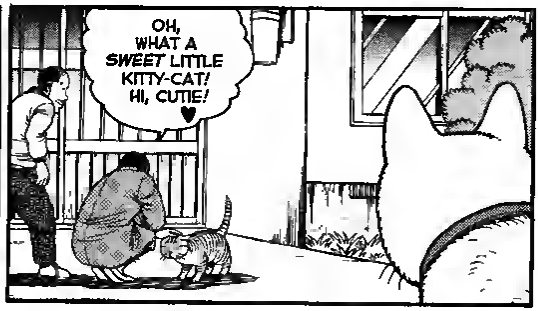
HELLOOO?! ANYBODY HOME?

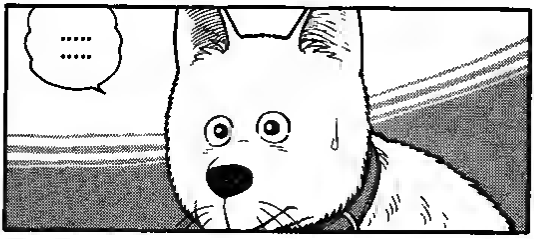

EEK!
ROWR ROWR ROWF!


DAMMIT, BEAR!
STOP THAT DURN RACKET! SHE'S A GUEST!
YIPE!

REAL SORRY 'BOUT THAT, MISSY.
GASP! WHAT A VICIOUS ANIMAL!
hrf!

EH?
mew!


OH, WHAT A SWEET LITTLE KITTY-CAT! HI, CUTIE!


.....
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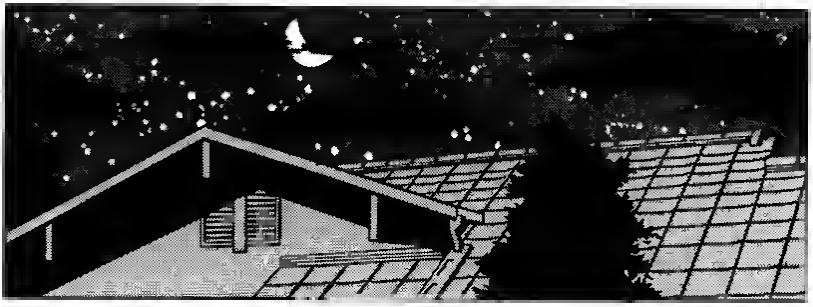
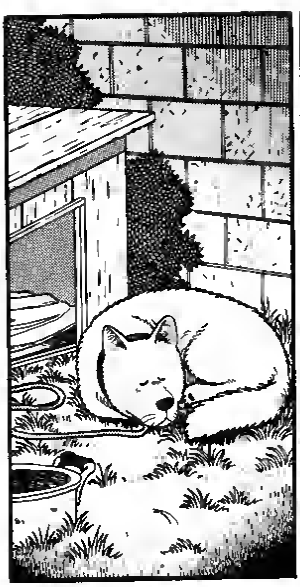
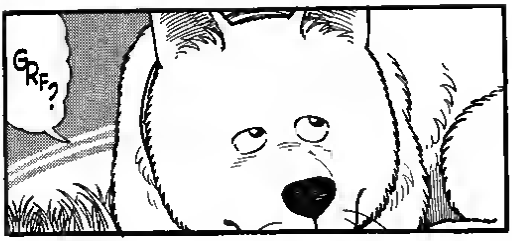


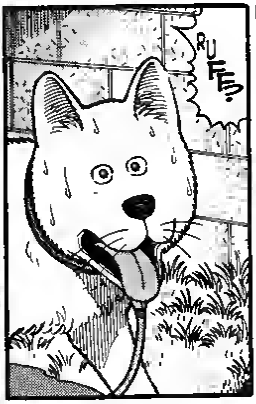


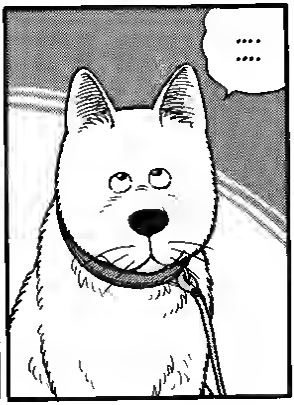

GRF?

GRR...!
AH ...?!

RONF!

N-NICE DOGGIE..?


RUFF!


.....
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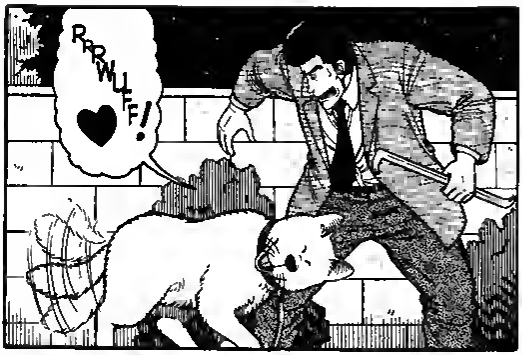
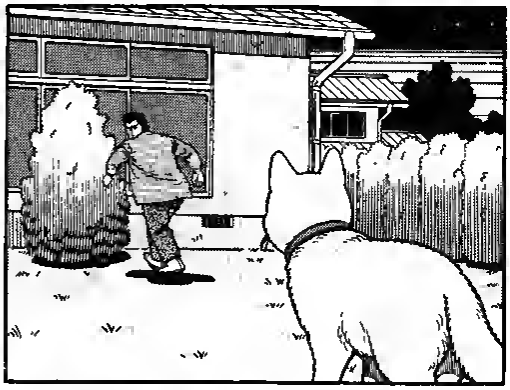
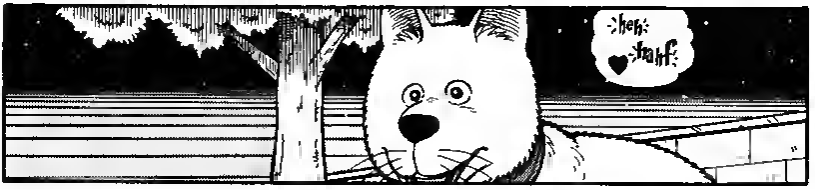
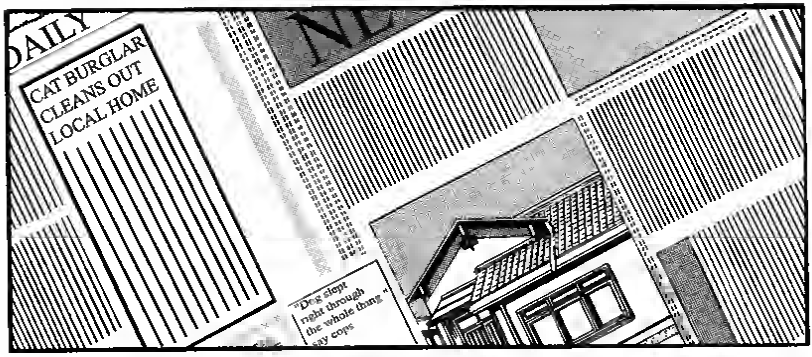

RRRWUFF!

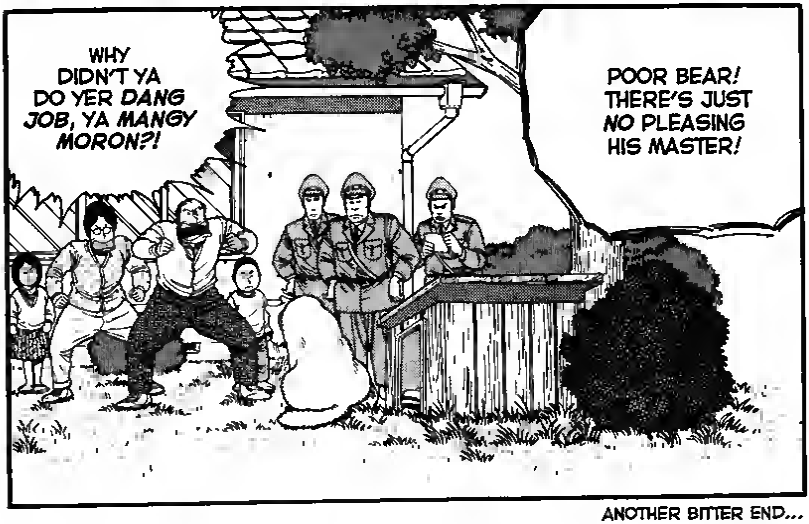
WHAT TH--?

HM... GOOD DOGGE...




then: stuff.





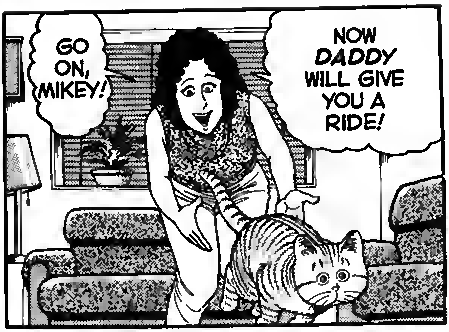
ANOTHER BITTER END...

THE REVENGE OF YAKUZA M
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING--IT'S WORSE THAN ALL THOSE YEARS I WAS A BAG MAN FOR K!
VRMMMM
YOU KNOW, I LOOOVE KITTIES!
THE MOMENT MARI SAID IT, I KNEW...
HONEY-BUNNY, I GOT ONE! I GOT A KITTY-CAT!
COME AN' SEE HIM!
...THAT I WOULD BE FORCED TO MEET MY WORST ENEMY!!
AIEEE!

....
....
HIII, HUNEEE!
OOOH, I'M SOOO EXCITED YOU CAN STAY ALL NIGHT!
NOW-- COME MEET MY KITTY!
....
....!
MREEOW?
MICHAEL! HIII, POOKIE!!
!!

Y-YEAH ... CUTE.
ISN'T HE SOOO CUUUTE? ♥
HONEY-BUNNY, MEET MY MIKEY-WIKEY!
gasp!
DOOM!
CAT SHAMPOO
sniff snuff ...?
YAOW! YAOW! NYAOW!!
REALLY... HMM. I HAD NO IDEA CATS HATED BATHS.
MY MIKEY HATES HIS BATHY-WATHY, THOUGH! HE RUNS AWAY IF HE EVEN JUST SEES SHAMPOO!
OH, YOU SWEETIE-- KITTY SHAMPOO FOR MICHAEL! HOW THOUGHTFUL!

MEEOW!
:-) GIGGLE :-)
DOES MY MIKEY-WIKEY WUV HIS PIGGY-BACKY RIDE?
TEE HEE HEE!

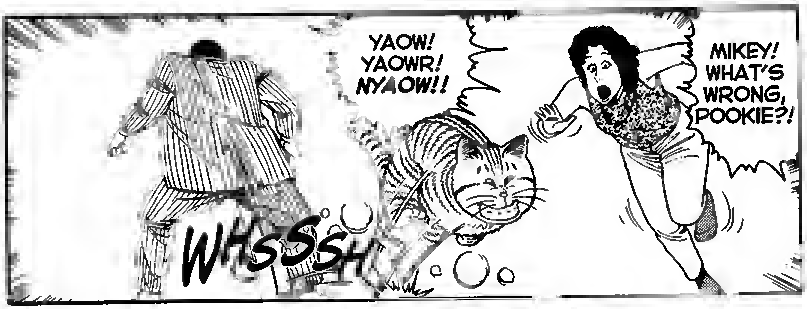

GO ON, MIKEY!
NOW DADDY WILL GIVE YOU A RIDE!

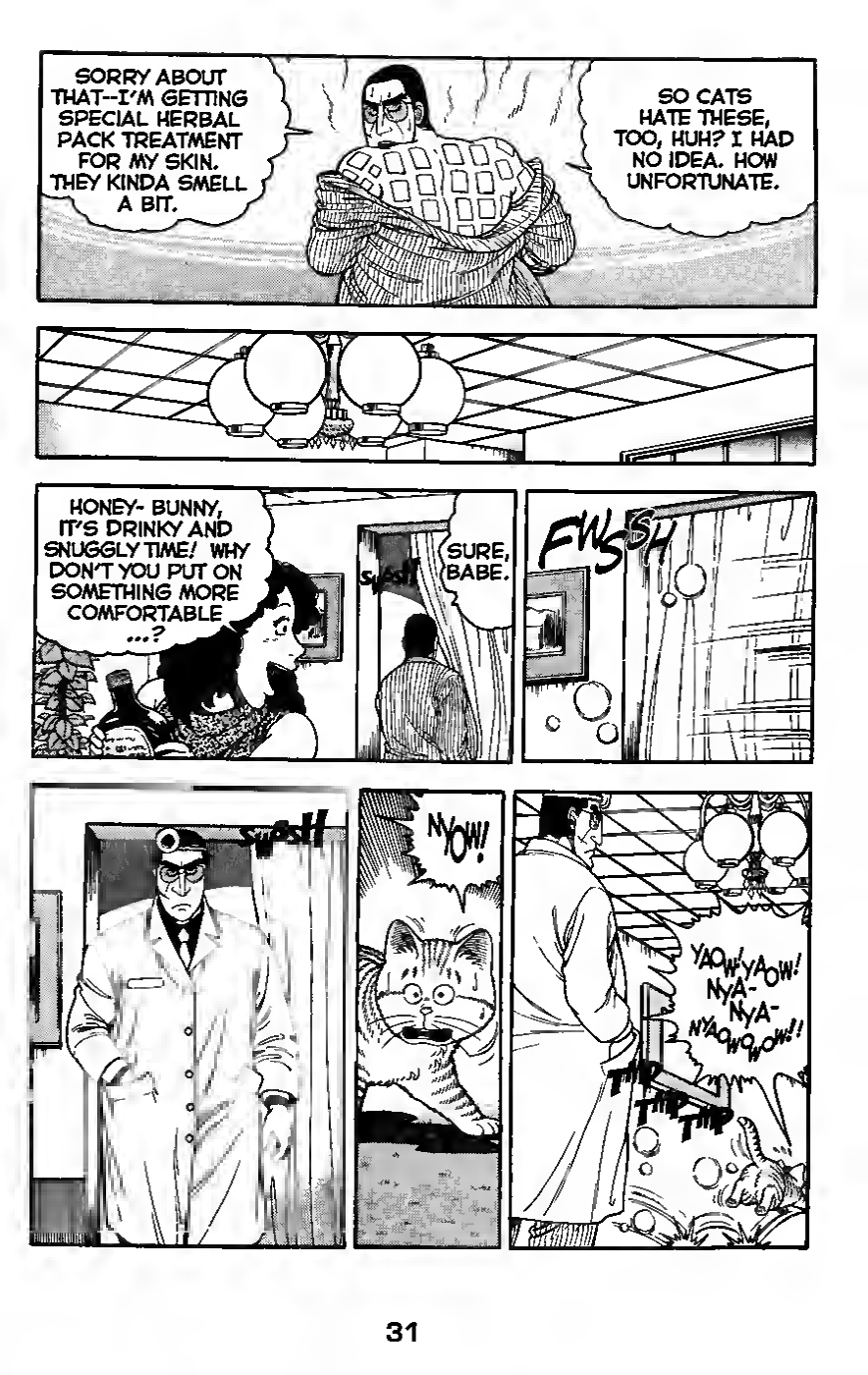
!!

THWAP
GYEEE!

NM...?

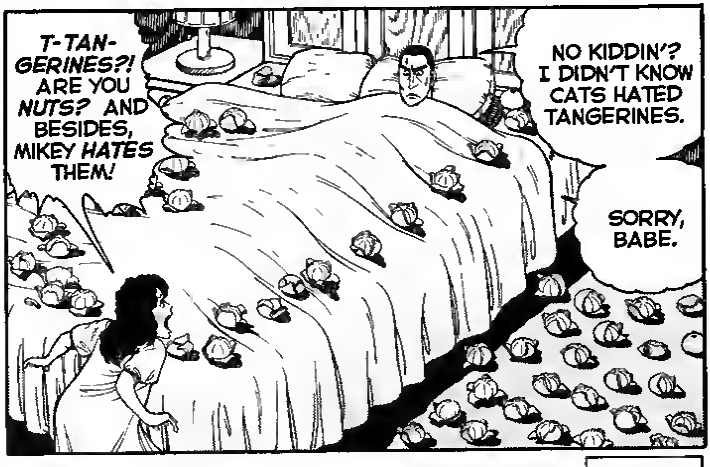
MRRGH!


YAOW! YAOWR! NYAOW!!
MIKEY! WHAT'S WRONG, POOKIE?!
WHSSSH

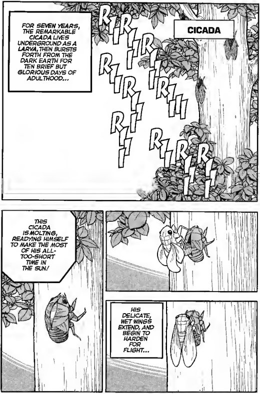

SORRY ABOUT THAT--I'M GETTING SPECIAL HERBAL PACK TREATMENT FOR MY SKIN. THEY KINDA SMELL A BIT.
SO CATS HATE THESE, TOO, HUH? I HAD NO IDEA. HOW UNFORTUNATE.
HONEY- BUNNY, IT'S DRINKY AND SNUGGLY TIME! WHY DON'T YOU PUT ON SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE ...?
SWASH!
SURE, BABE.
FWSSH
SWASH!
NYOW!
YAOW! YAOW! NYA- NYA- NYAOWOW!!
THIP THIP THIP

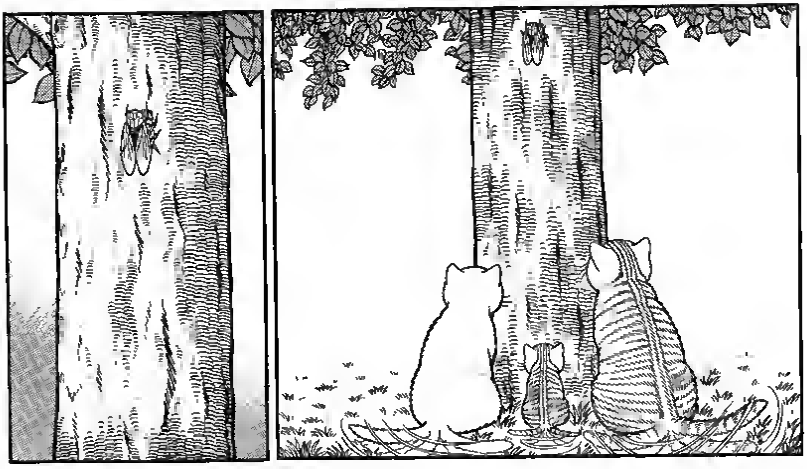
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU WEARING *THAT* GET-UP FOR?! POOR MIKEY IS *TERRIFIED* OF THE VET!
HUH? JUST A BIT OF A JOKE, BABE. SO CATS ARE AFRAID OF THE VET, HUH? I DIDN'T KNOW. SORRY.

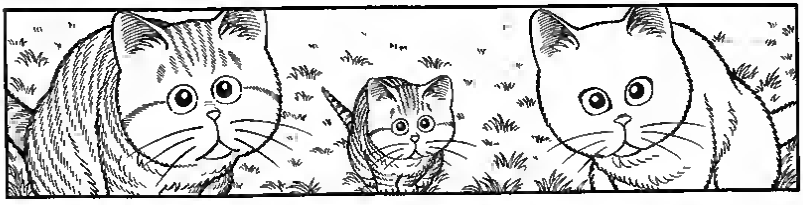
HERE I COME, HUNEEE!
WHY DON'T YOU TURN THE LIGHTS DOWN A BI--

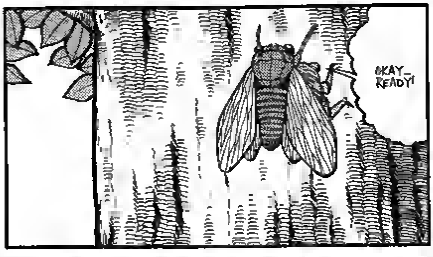

T-TAN-GERINES?! ARE YOU *NUTS?* AND BESIDES, MIKEY *HATES* THEM!
NO KIDDIN'? I DIDN'T KNOW CATS HATED TANGERINES.
SORRY, BABE.

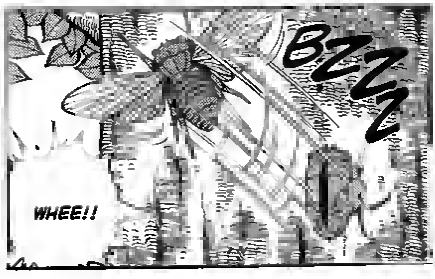
THE END

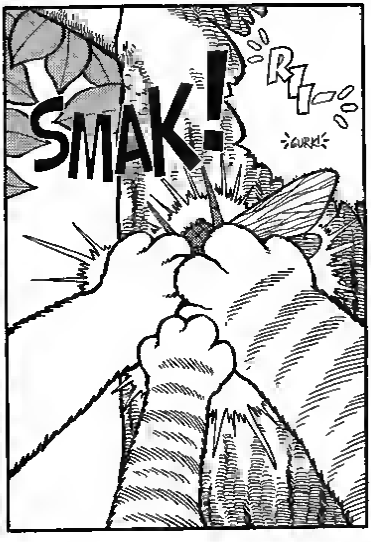

FOR SEVEN YEARS, THE REMARKABLE CICADA LIVES UNDERGROUND AS A LARVA, THEN BURSTS FORTH FROM THE DARK EARTH FOR TEN BRIEF BUT GLORIOUS DAYS OF ADULTHOOD...
CICADA
THIS CICADA IS MOLTING, READYING HIMSELF TO MAKE THE MOST OF HIS ALL-TOO-SHORT TIME IN THE SUN!
HIS DELICATE, WET WINGS EXTEND, AND BEGIN TO HARDEN FOR FLIGHT...

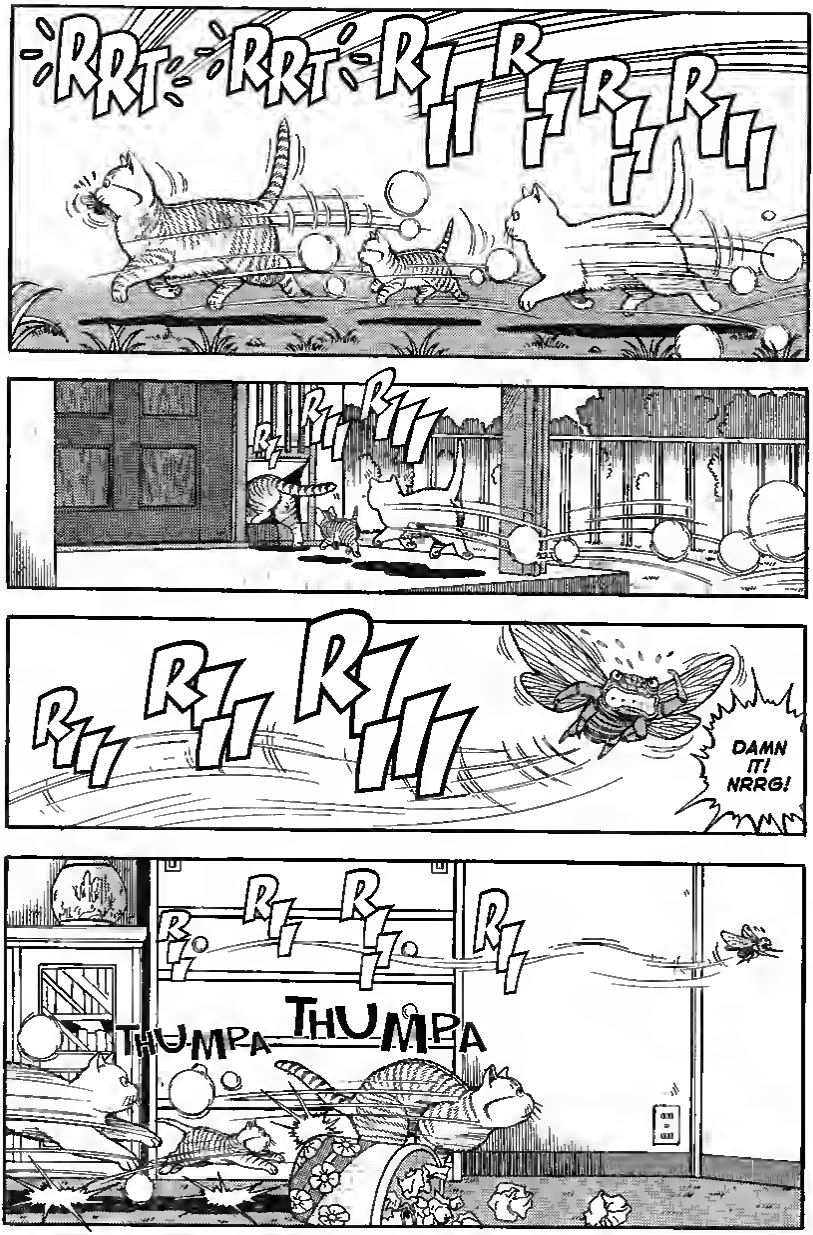


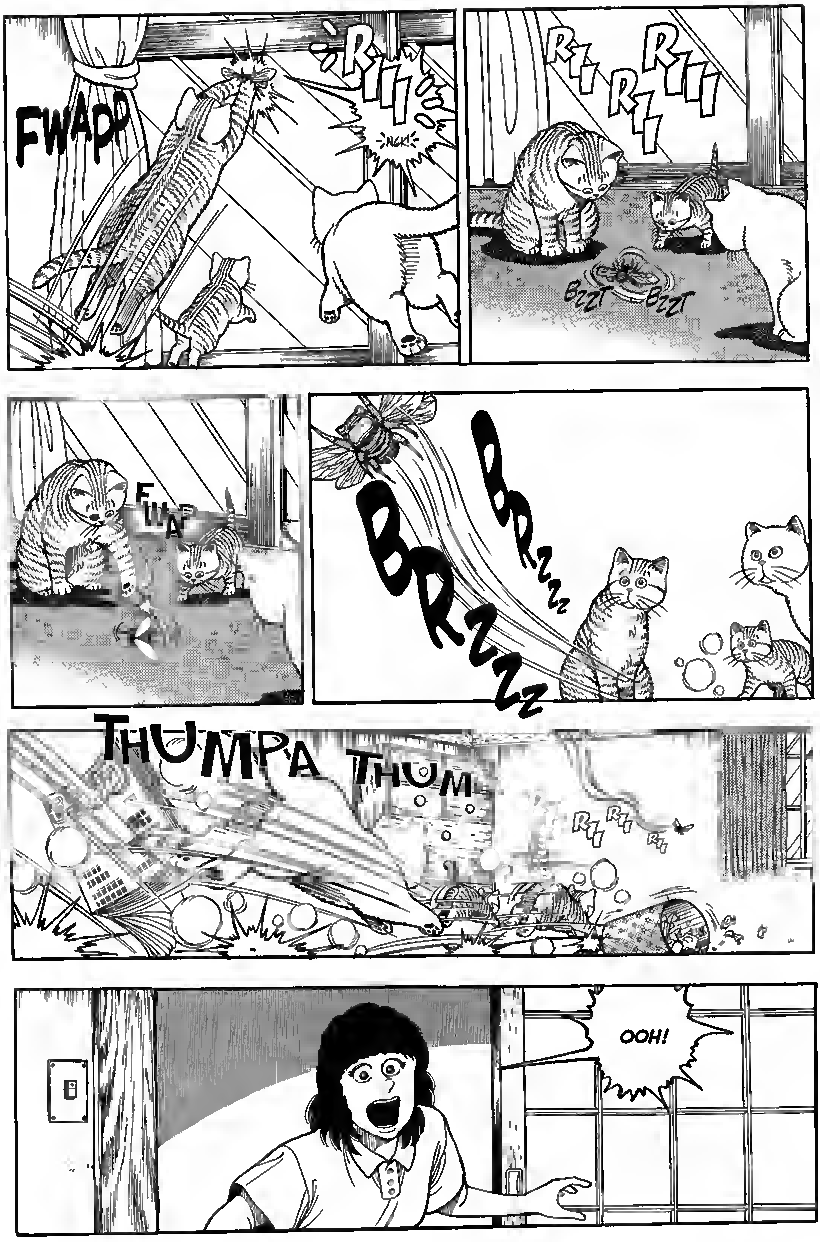



OKAY— READY!


BZZZ
WHEE!!


SMAK!
RZZZ
GURK!

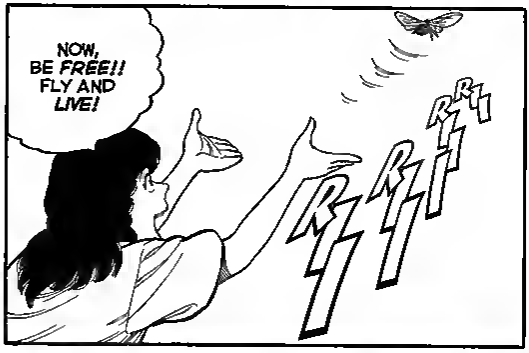

RRT RRT RIII RIII RIII RIII
RIII RIII RIII
RIII RIII RIII
DAMN IT! NRRG!
RIII RIII RIII RIII
THUMPA THUMPA


FWAPP
RIII
NCK!
RIII RIII
BZZT BZZT
FWAP
BRZZZ
BRZZZ
THUMPA THUM
RIII RIII RIII
OOH!

MICHAEL! POPO! MINI-MIKE!
STOP IT! WHAT A MESS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
RI RI RI RI

GIVE ME THAT POOR CICADA!
IT TOOK HIM SEVEN YEARS TO GROW, YOU BIG MEANIE-CAT!!
NYOWR?!
RI RI RI

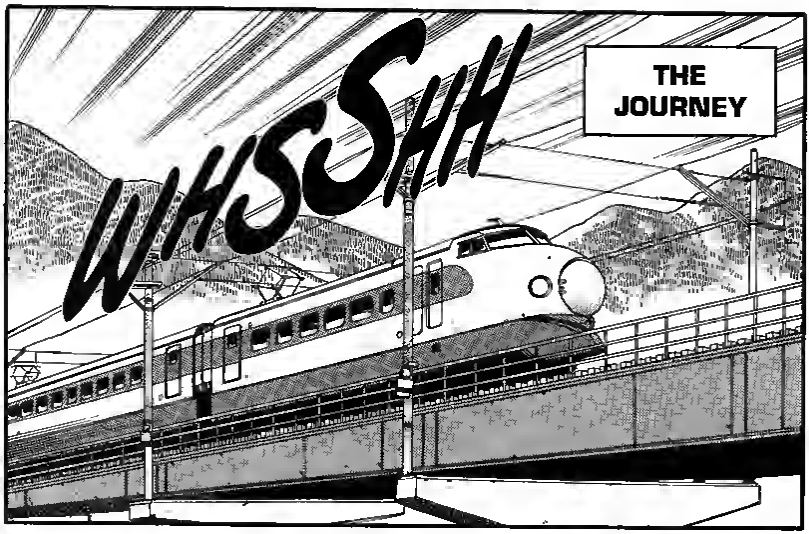
I'M SO SORRY, MISTER CICADA.

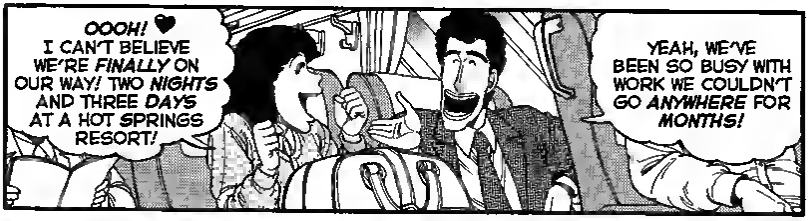

NOW, BE FREE!! FLY AND LIVE!
RI RI RI RI

RI RI RI RI!

SIGHH
KCHAK
WHA --?
THUMPA THUMPA
D'OOooOOOH! YOU DUMB BUG! MICHAEL! POPO! MINI-MIKE! COME BACK!
SAVED BY THE NOBLE-HEARTED HOUSEWIFE, THE CICADA FLEW TO FREEDOM... ...AND RIGHT BACK IN THROUGH THE SECOND-STORY WINDOW.

THE END


WHSSHH
THE JOURNEY


OOOH! ♥ I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE FINALLY ON OUR WAY! TWO NIGHTS AND THREE DAYS AT A HOT SPRINGS RESORT!
YEAH, WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH WORK WE COULDN'T GO ANYWHERE FOR MONTHS!

B-BUT...IT'S THREE WHOLE DAYS...DO YOU THINK THE CATS WILL BE OKAY? WE'VE NEVER LEFT THEM ALONE SO LONG BEFORE...

OF COURSE THEY WILL! THEY HAVE THREE DAYS' WORTH OF FOOD, AND FIVE FRESH LITTER BOXES!
TH-THAT'S TRUE...

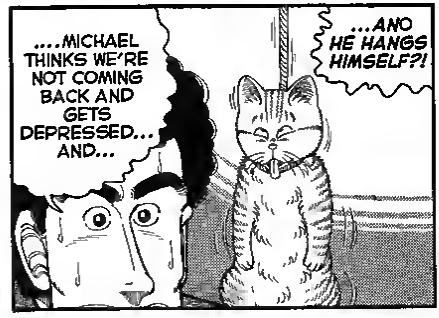
THREE WHOLE DAYS... SEVENTY-TWO HOURS...
FOUR THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED TWENTY MINUTES...
SIGH

LOOK, DEAR, LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THE CA... ER...ANYTHING! THIS IS OUR VACATION!

YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE CATS'LL BE OKAY WITHOUT US.

....
....

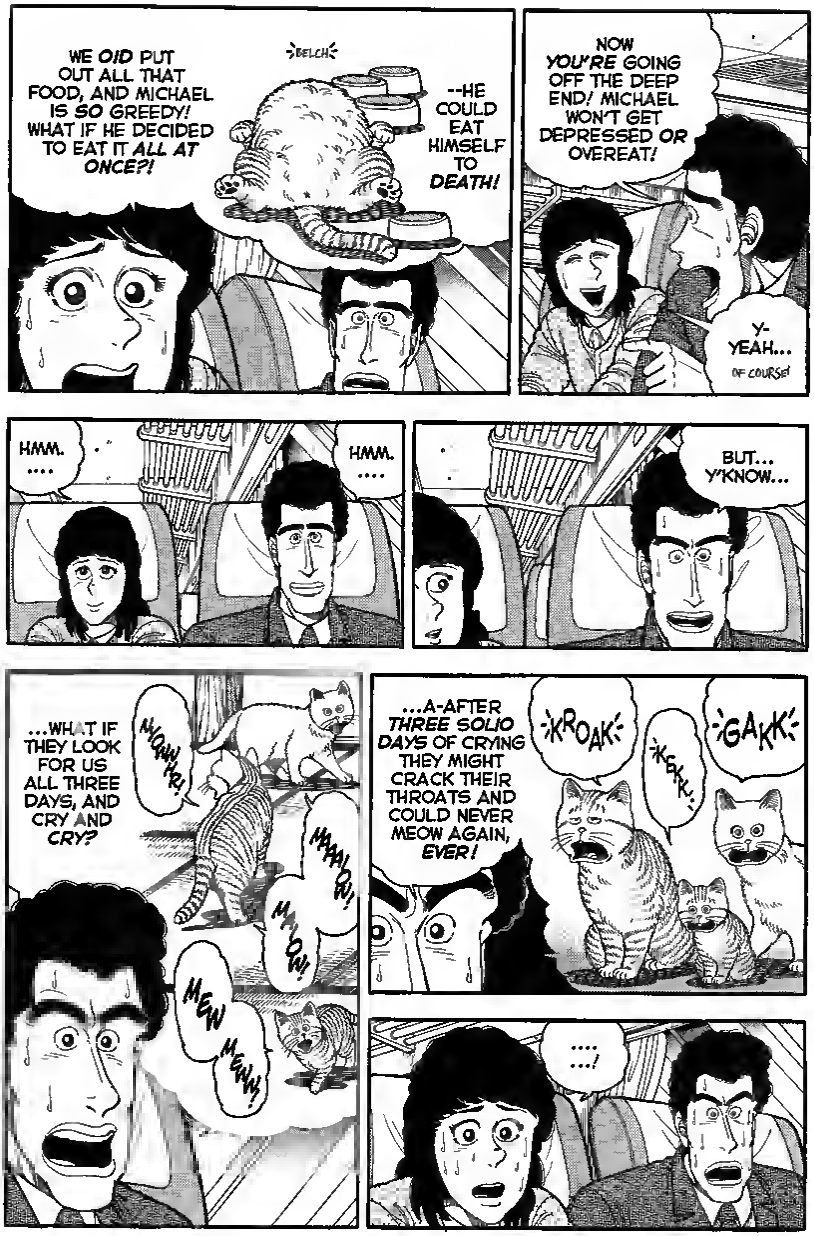
B-BUT... WHAT IF...
...JUST IF...


....MICHAEL THINKS WE'RE NOT COMING BACK AND GETS DEPRESSED... AND...
...AND HE HANGS HIMSELF?!

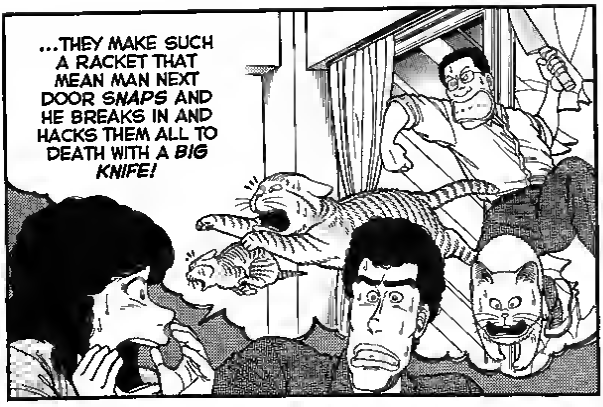
HONEY, DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! IT'S BAD LUCK!
I'M SORRY, SWEETHEART! MY IMAGINATION JUST RAN AWAY WITH ME!

....
....

BUT... YOU KNOW...


WE OID PUT OUT ALL THAT FOOD, AND MICHAEL IS SO GREEDY! WHAT IF HE DECIDED TO EAT IT ALL AT ONCE?!
BELCH
--HE COULD EAT HIMSELF TO DEATH!
NOW YOU'RE GOING OFF THE DEEP END! MICHAEL WON'T GET DEPRESSED OR OVEREAT!
Y-YEAH...
OF COURSE!
HMM. ....
HMM. ....
BUT... Y'KNOW...
...WHAT IF THEY LOOK FOR US ALL THREE DAYS, AND CRY AND CRY?
MIOWWR!
MAAALOW!
MALOW!
MEW
MEWW!
...A-AFTER THREE SOLIO DAYS OF CRYING THEY MIGHT CRACK THEIR THROATS AND COULD NEVER MEOW AGAIN, EVER!
KROAK
KSKK
GAKK
....!

OR... OR EVEN WORSE...
...TH-THEY...

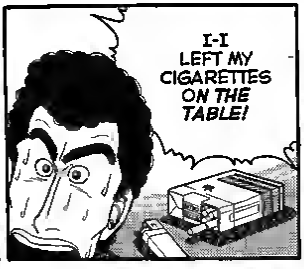

...THEY MAKE SUCH A RACKET THAT MEAN MAN NEXT DOOR SNAPS AND HE BREAKS IN AND HACKS THEM ALL TO DEATH WITH A BIG KNIFE!

COME ON! HE'S NOT THAT CRAZY!
NOW!! STOP WORRYING AND LET'S HAVE FUN!

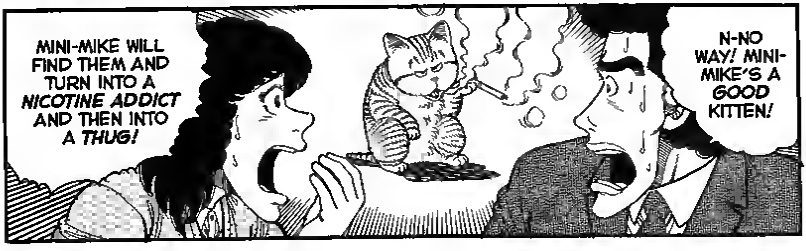
HA HA!
YES! OF COURSE! HAVE FUN! YES!

AH!! OH, NO ...!

!!
WHAT NOW?!


I-I LEFT MY CIGARETTES ON THE TABLE!

WHA--?! NO ...!

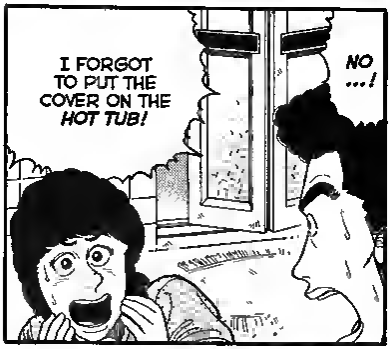

MINI-MIKE WILL FIND THEM AND TURN INTO A NICOTINE ADDICT AND THEN INTO A THUG!
N-NO WAY! MINI-MIKE'S A GOOD KITTEN!

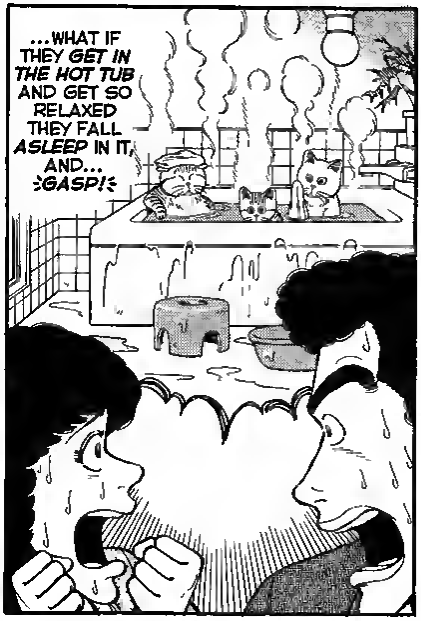
B-BUT HE COULD...

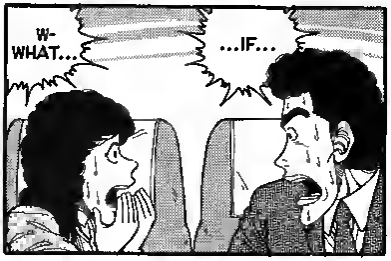
...GET ASTHMA-- AND EVEN LUNG CANCER!

:GASP!:
:GASP!:

OH MY GOD ...!
W-WHAT?! WHAT?!


I FORGOT TO PUT THE COVER ON THE HOT TUB!
NO ...!

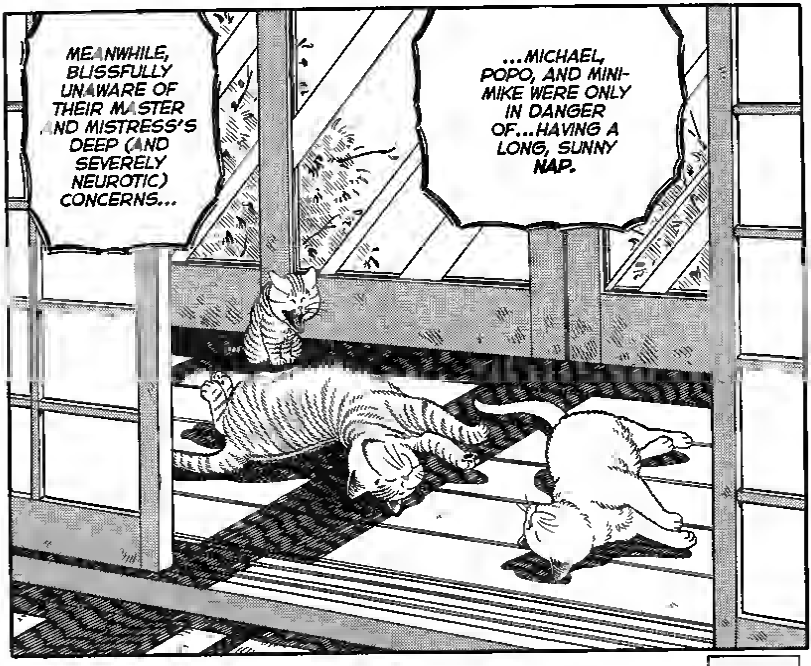

...WHAT IF THEY GET IN THE HOT TUB AND GET SO RELAXED THEY FALL ASLEEP IN IT, AND... :GASP!:


W-WHAT...
...IF...

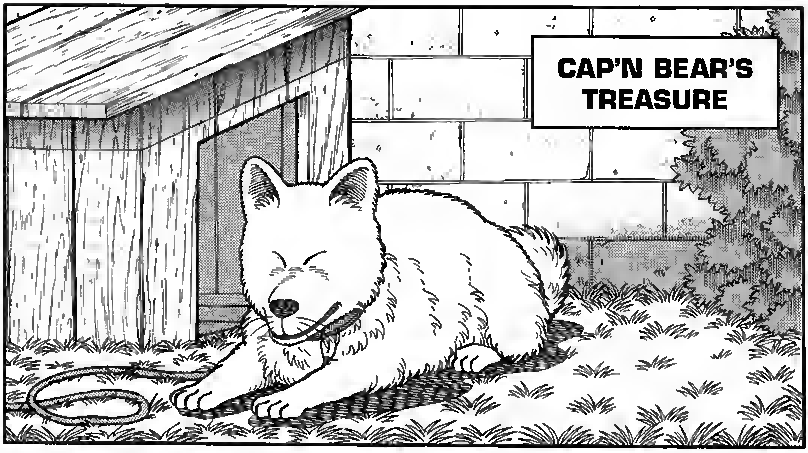
.....
.....
.....
.....

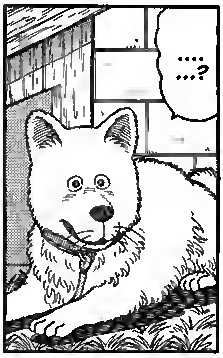
DARLING...? M-MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT WEEKEND FOR A TRIP.
I BET THAT RESORT ISN'T *THAT* NICE, ANYWAY...
AND IT'S PROBABLY CROWDED...

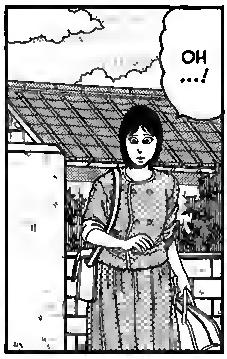
YEAH... YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S JUST GET A TRAIN HOME AT THE NEXT STATION, OKAY?

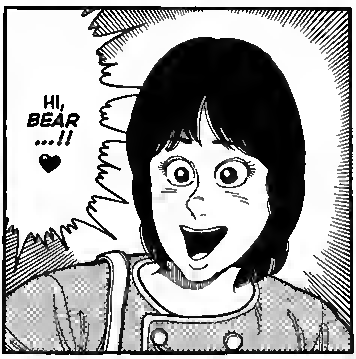

MEANWHILE, BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF THEIR MASTER AND MISTRESS'S DEEP (AND SEVERELY NEUROTIC) CONCERNS...
...MICHAEL, POPO, AND MINI-MIKE WERE ONLY IN DANGER OF...HAVING A LONG, SUNNY NAP.

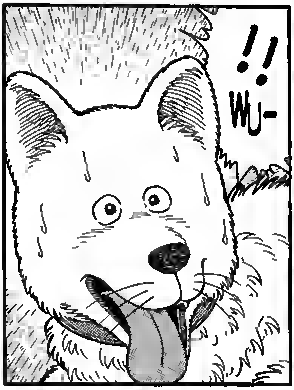
THE END

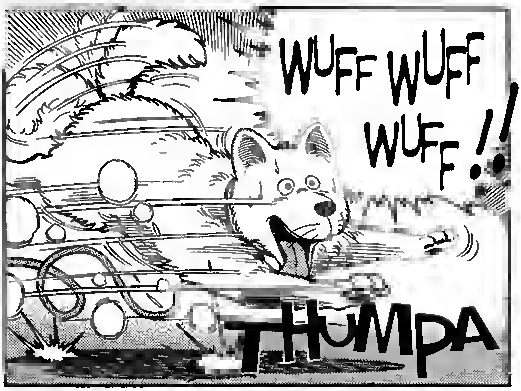

CAP'N BEAR'S TREASURE


....
...?

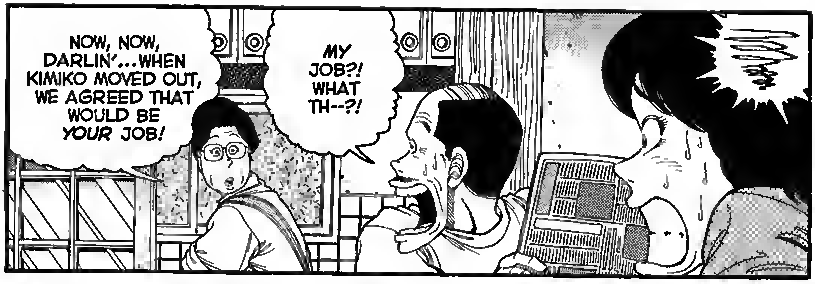

OH
...!


HI, BEAR
...!!


!!
WU-


WUFF WUFF
WUFF!!
THUMPA

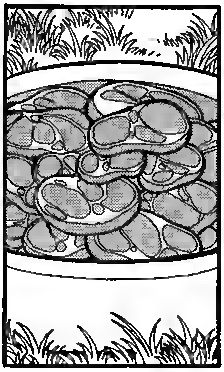
WUFF ♥ WUFF WOOF WURF!
HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD DOGGIE FOR MOM AND DAD?
OH, BEAR! I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
WU--
TWANG
WURF ♥ WUFF WOOF WAUF!
I'LL TALK TO DADDY AND MAKE HIM TREAT YOU BETTER, OKAY?!
POOR BEAR ...!
AWW... THEY'RE STILL FEEDING YOU THE SAME OLD LEFTOVERS, AREN'T THEY?
DOGS EAT LEFTOVERS! BEEN THAT WAY SINCE TH' OLD DAYS!
HUH? YER TALKIN' NONSENSE, GIRL!
HMM ...?!
HEY! YOU BEEN WALKIN' THE DAMN DAWG?
HUH? ME?
YOU AT LEAST WALK HIM EVERY DAY... DON'T YOU?
THESE AREN'T THE OLD DAYS, DADDY! BEAR'S A PART OF OUR FAMILY!


NOW, NOW, DARLIN'...WHEN KIMIKO MOVED OUT, WE AGREED THAT WOULD BE YOUR JOB!
MY JOB?! WHAT TH--?!

OH, BEAR, YOU POOR LITTLE PUP!
DON'T WORRY-- I'LL MAKE YOU AS HAPPY AS I CAN, AT LEAST WHILE I'M BACK IN TOWN! PROMISE!!

DINNER TIME, BEAR!!
WUFFA!
WURF!

AAAAND-- LOOK! THE VERY BEST GOURMET DOG FOOD I COULD FIND-- "FILET O' BEEF"...!
C'MON! EAT IT UP!



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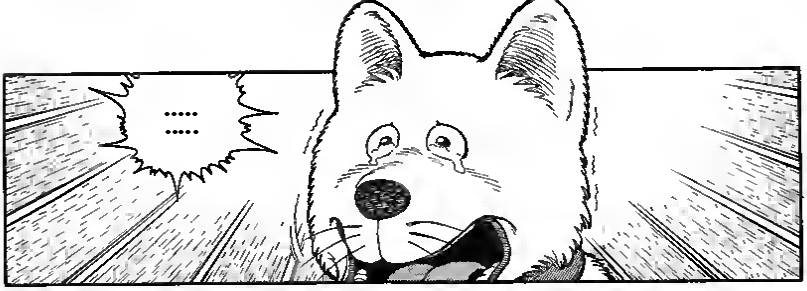
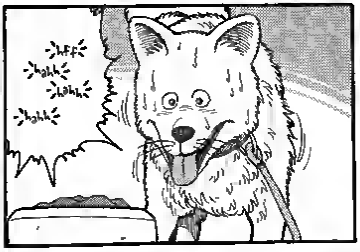
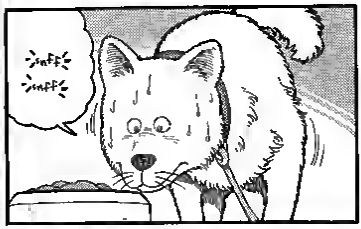

.....
.....

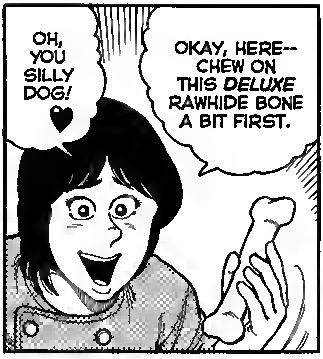
WOWF! ♥
WURF! YOWF!
HA, HA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT HAPPY, YOU BIG GOOF! JUST EAT AND ENJOY!

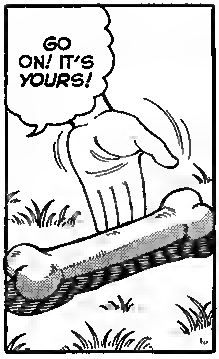


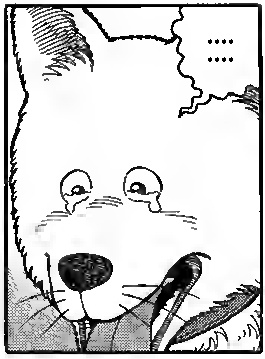


....
....!

YARF! YARF! YOOF!
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY! I KNOW YOU'RE HAPPY! JUST EAT, DARN IT!
POOR BEAR WAS SO THRILLED TO GET GOOD FOOD FOR A CHANGE, HE WAS TOO EXCITED TO EAT.


OH, YOU SILLY DOG!
OKAY, HERE-- CHEW ON THIS *DELUXE* RAWHIDE BONE A BIT FIRST.


GO ON! IT'S *YOURS!*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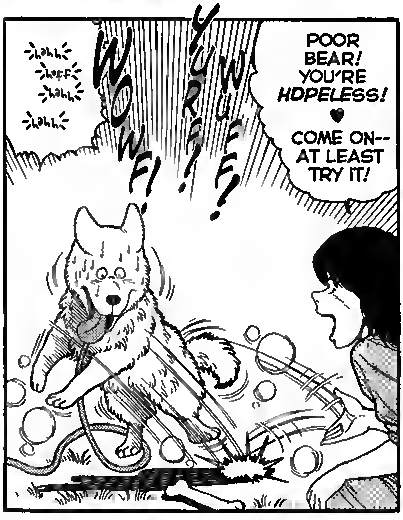
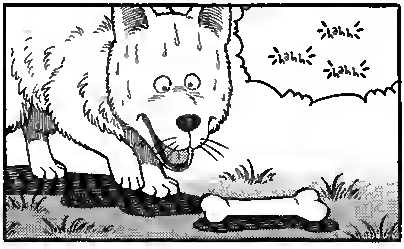
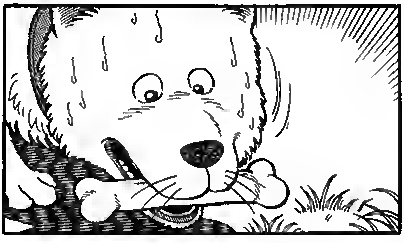
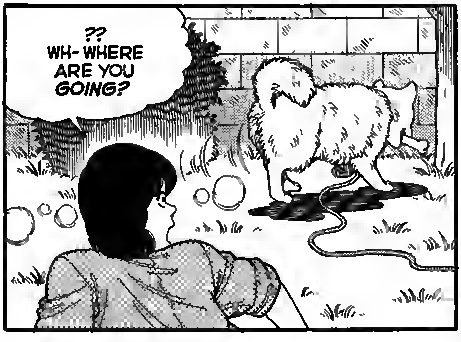
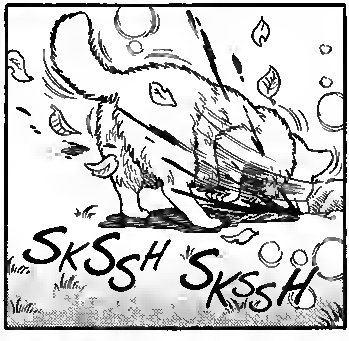
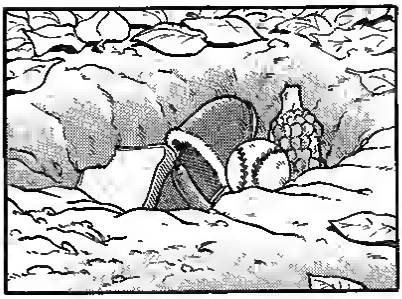

WOWF!
YOWF!
WOWF!
POOR BEAR! YOU'RE *HOPELESS!*
COME ON-- AT LEAST TRY IT!

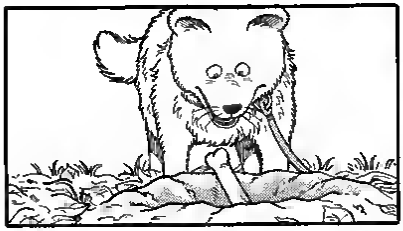


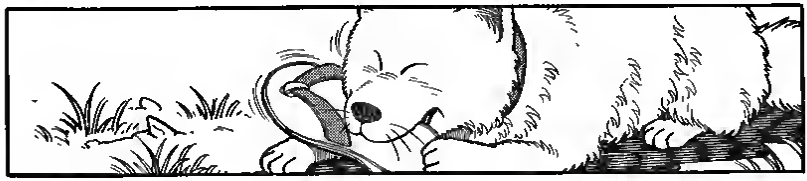


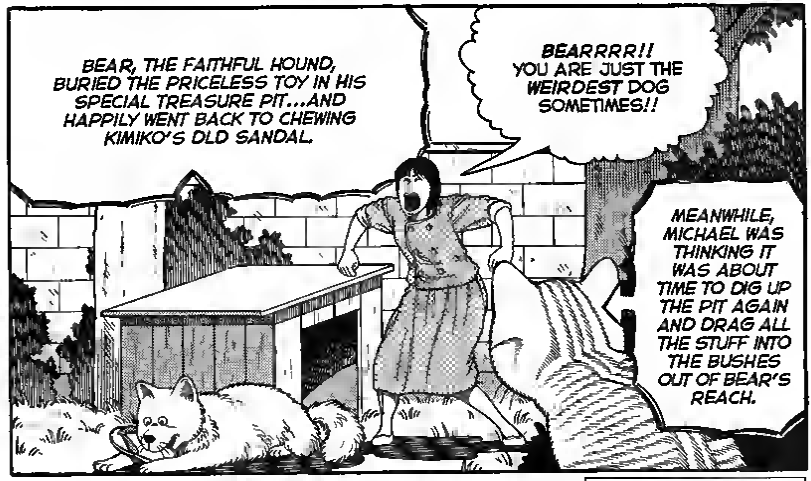

?? WH- WHERE ARE YOU *GOING?*


SKSSH SKSSH

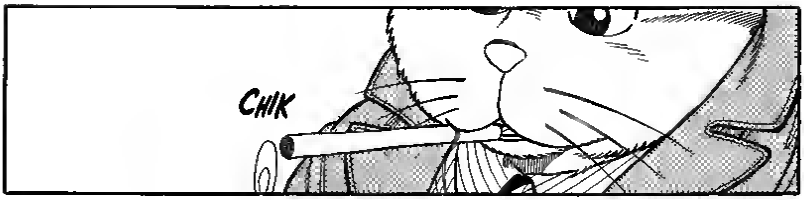


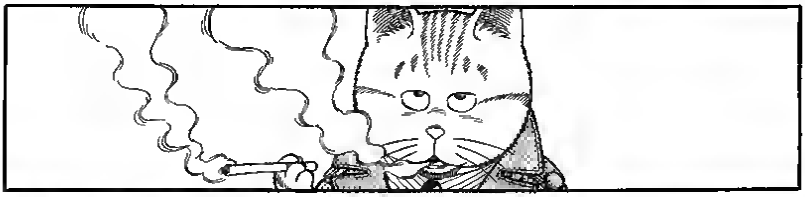


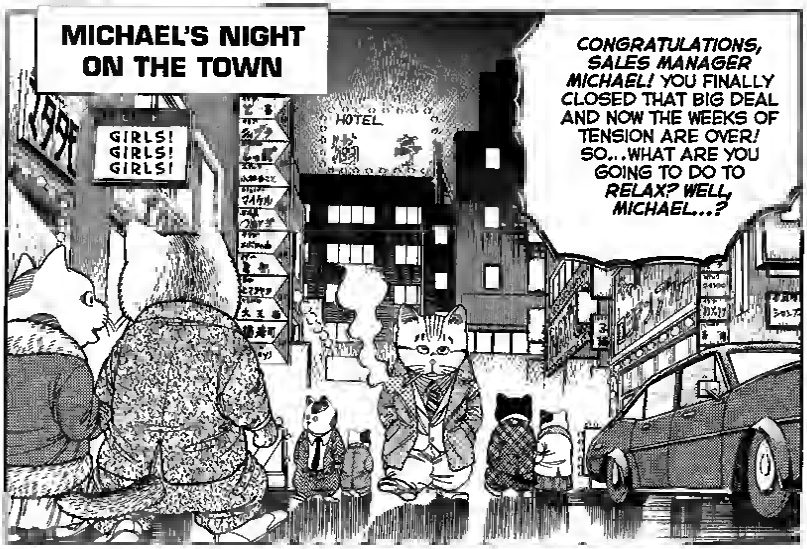


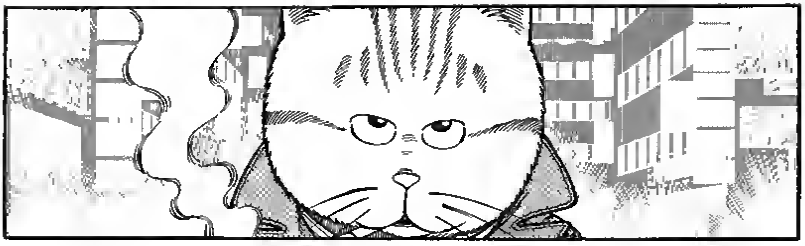


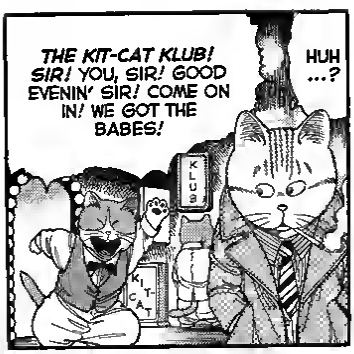
THE BITTERSWEET END

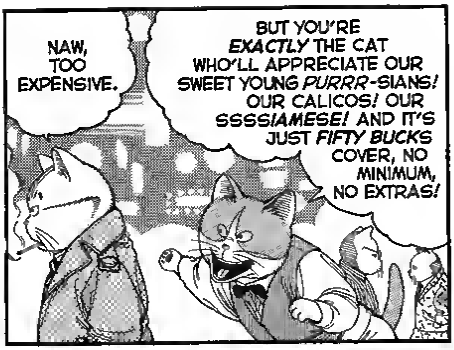

CHIK




MICHAEL'S NIGHT ON THE TOWN
GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS!
HOTEL
CONGRATULATIONS, SALES MANAGER MICHAEL! YOU FINALLY CLOSED THAT BIG DEAL AND NOW THE WEEKS OF TENSION ARE OVER! SO...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO RELAX? WELL, MICHAEL...?



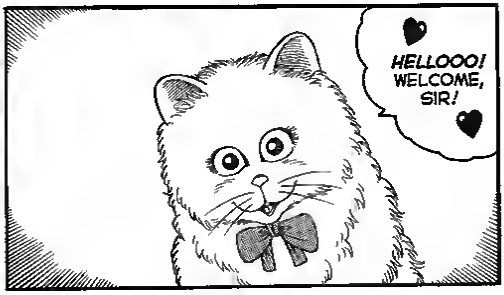

THE KIT-CAT KLUB! SIR! YOU, SIR! GOOD EVENIN' SIR! COME ON IN! WE GOT THE BABES!
HUH ...?
KLUB
KIT-CAT

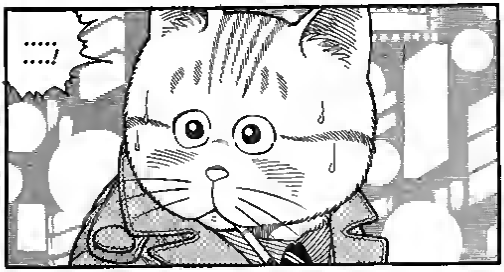

NAW, TOO EXPENSIVE.
BUT YOU'RE EXACTLY THE CAT WHO'LL APPRECIATE OUR SWEET YOUNG PURRR-SIANS! OUR CALICOS! OUR SSSSIAMESE! AND IT'S JUST FIFTY BUCKS COVER, NO MINIMUM, NO EXTRAS!

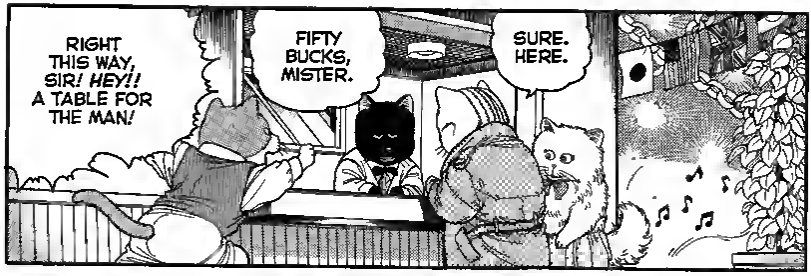
....

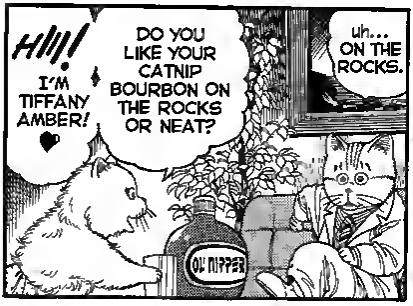
C'MON! WE RUN A CLEAN JOINT HERE!
I'LL HOOK YA UP WITH A REAL HOTTIE!
WELL... .....
KIT-CAT CLU

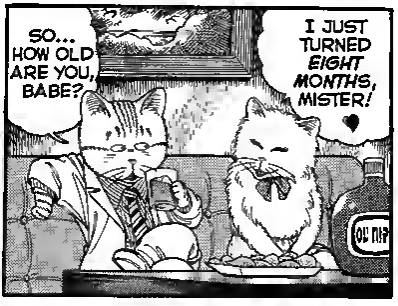
GOOD EVENING, SIR!

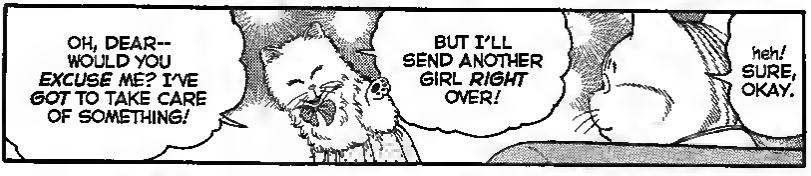

HELLOOO! WELCOME, SIR!


....!


RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR! HEY!! A TABLE FOR THE MAN!
FIFTY BUCKS, MISTER.
SURE. HERE.

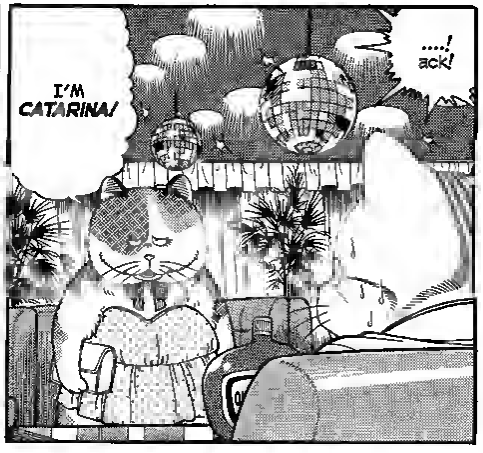

HI!!! I'M TIFFANY AMBER!
DO YOU LIKE YOUR CATNIP BOURBON ON THE ROCKS OR NEAT?
uh... ON THE ROCKS.

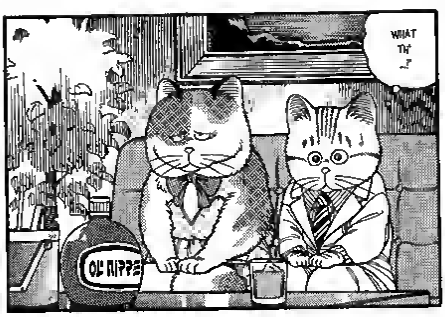

SO... HOW OLD ARE YOU, BABE?
I JUST TURNED EIGHT MONTHS, MISTER!


OH, DEAR-- WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME? I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING!
BUT I'LL SEND ANOTHER GIRL RIGHT OVER!
heh! SURE, OKAY.

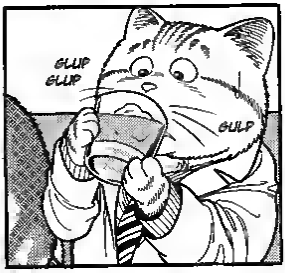
....

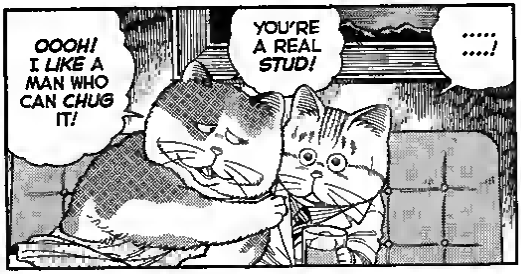
HEY THERE, BIG BOY!
HI... ....

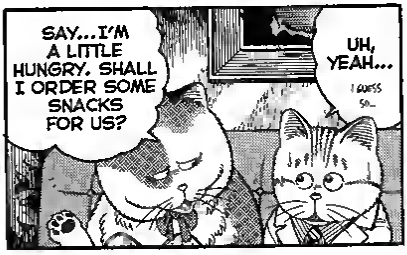

I'M CATARINA!
....! ack!

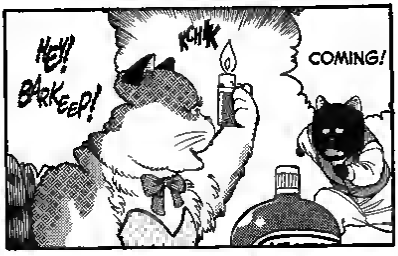

WHAT TH' ...?
OF RIPPA

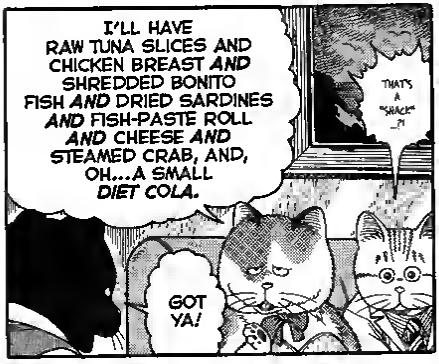
C'MON, DRINK UP, HANDSOME!
Y-YEAH.

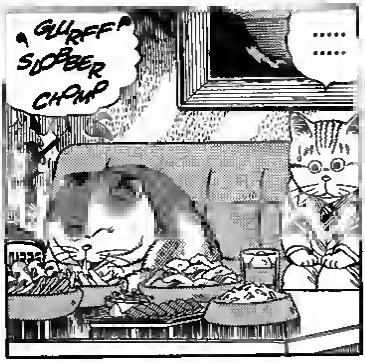

GULP GULP
GULP


OOOH! I LIKE A MAN WHO CAN CHUG IT!
YOU'RE A REAL STUD!
....!

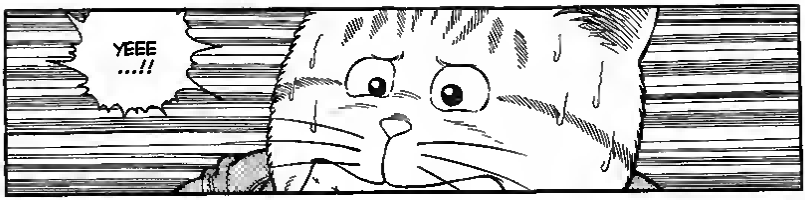

SAY... I'M A LITTLE HUNGRY. SHALL I ORDER SOME SNACKS FOR US?
UH, YEAH...
I GUESS SO...

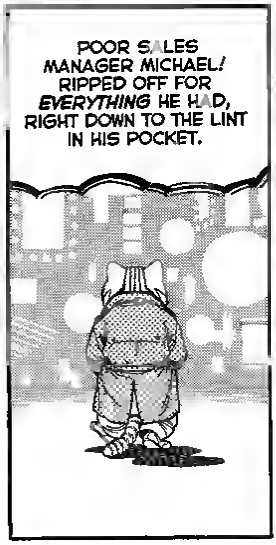

HE'!
BARKEEP!
KCHK
COMING!

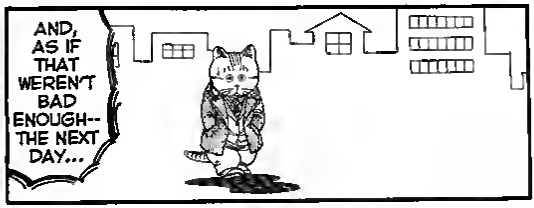

I'LL HAVE RAW TUNA SLICES AND CHICKEN BREAST AND SHREDDED BONITO FISH AND DRIED SARDINES AND FISH-PASTE ROLL AND CHEESE AND STEAMED CRAB, AND, OH... A SMALL DIET COLA.
THAT'S A "SNACK"...?!
GOT YA!


GLURFF SLOBBER CHOMP
....

BELCH!
I'M IN HELL.
I BET YOU GOT A LI'L BIT A' TOMCAT IN YOU! PRROWR!
WELL, I'LL HELP YOU LET HIM OUT WITH SOME OF MY... SPECIAL GROOMING. JUST TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS!
UHH ....
GOSH, IS THAT THE TIME?!
I BETTER RUN OR I'LL MISS THE LAST TRAIN.
AW, TOO BAD... BUT, WHATEVER.
HEY! GOT A CHECKOUT OVER HERE!
GOT YA!
LESSEE... BOTTLE, SNACKS, TWO GIRLS, GRATUITY... $458.95.
WH... WHAT?!
B-BUT YOU SAID THE COVER WAS FOR EVERYTHING!! "NO EXTRAS" ...!!
ARE YOU LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE... SIR?


YEEE ...!!


POOR SALES MANAGER MICHAEL! RIPPED OFF FOR *EVERYTHING* HE HAD, RIGHT DOWN TO THE LINT IN HIS POCKET.


AND, AS IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH-- THE NEXT DAY...

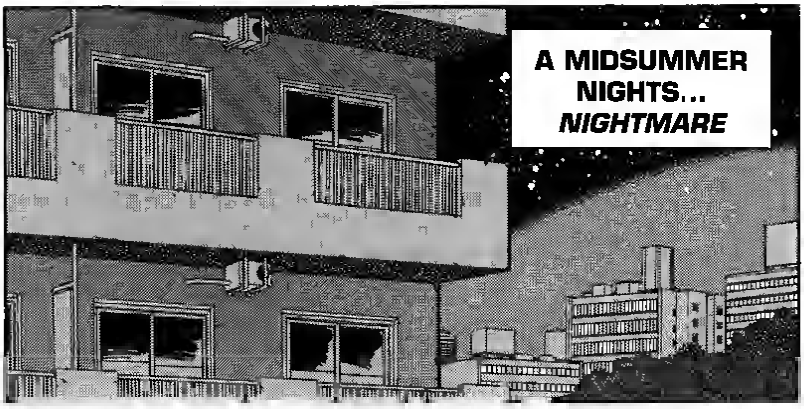
-sillgh-

KIT-KAT KLINIC
1-555-GOT-ITCH?
LICE
FLEAS

...HE REALIZED HE'D CAUGHT... *FLEAS!*
KIT-
1-555-GOT-ITCH
LICE
FLEAS

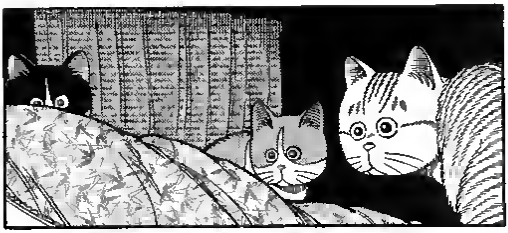
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I THINK HE'S DREAMING ABOUT!
HE IS *NOT!* GOD, SOMETIMES YOU'RE SO GROSS!
MROW!
GNR!

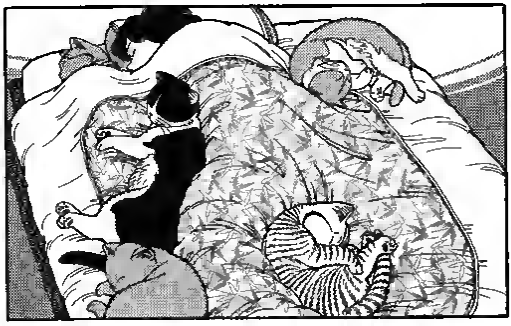
THE END

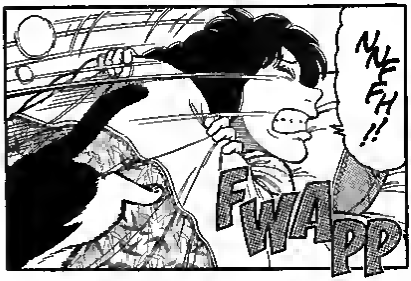

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS...
NIGHTMARE

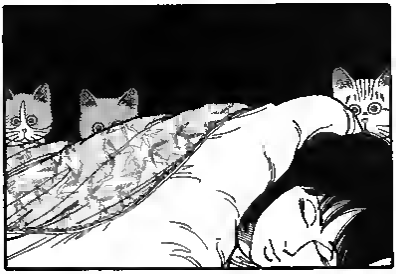
♂.....
.....♂

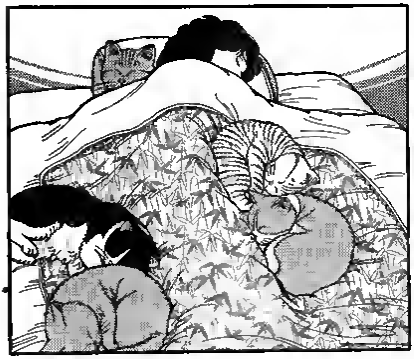
URRRG!

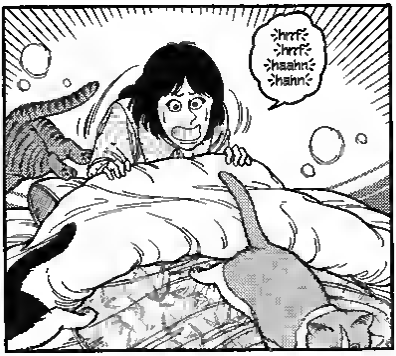




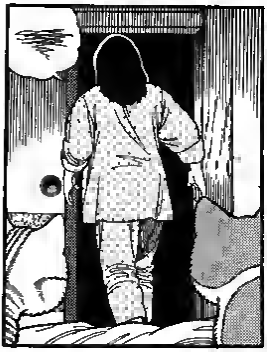

NNEFH!!
FWAPP

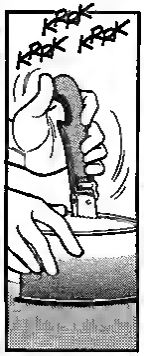




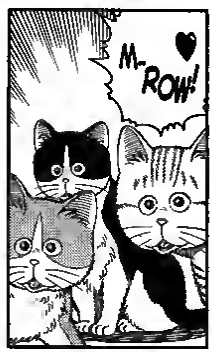

hrrrf
hrrrf
haahn
hahn

:hahh:
.....



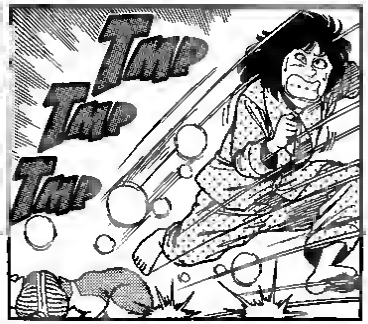

KRRK KRRK KRRK

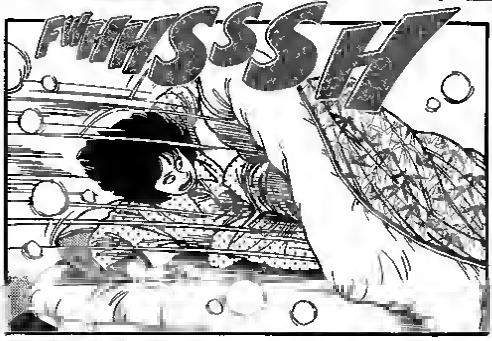
C'MON, BABIES! MIDNIGHT SNAAA-AACK!


M-ROW!

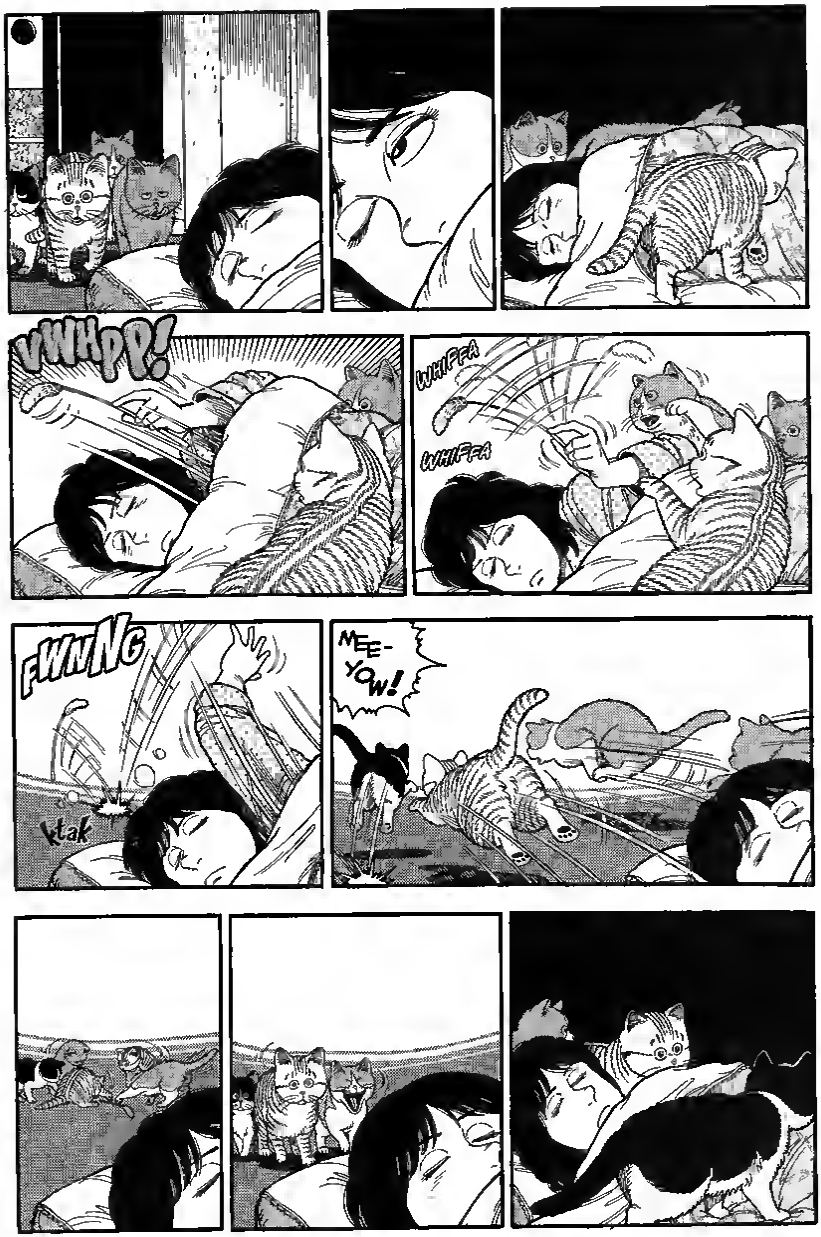
MROW! MROW! MAOW!
ENJOY! AND... EAT SLOW!

I CAN JUST MAKE IT!

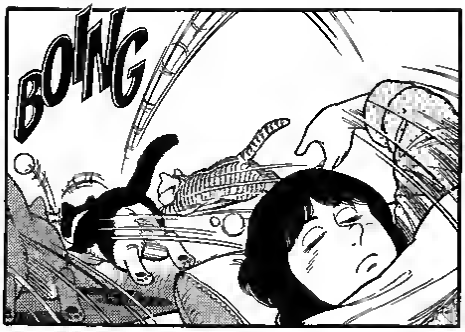

TMP TMP TMP

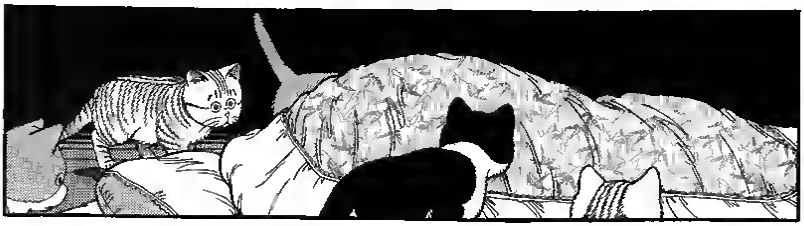

FWHHSSSH

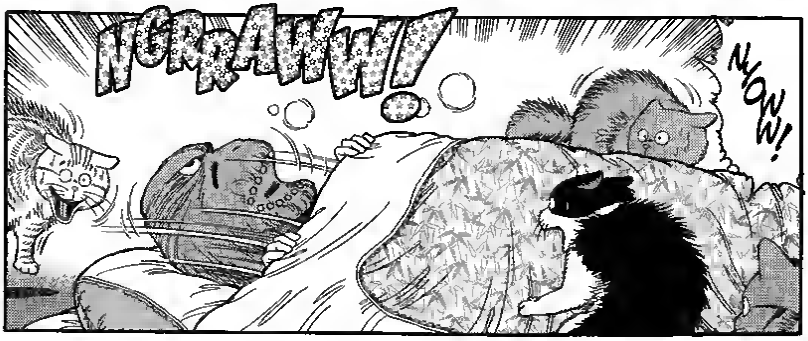
ZZZ!

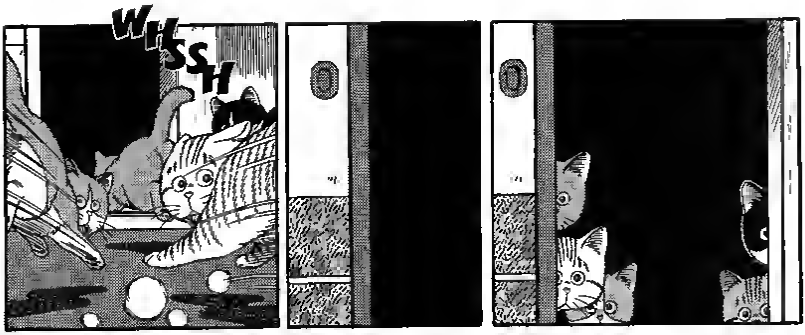

VWHPP!
WHIPPA
WHIPPA
FWINNG
ktak
MEE-YOW!

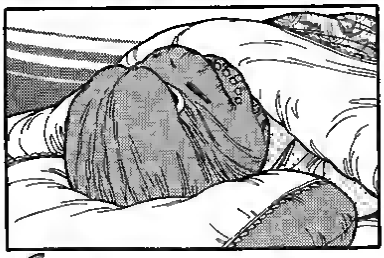
WEEH


BOING

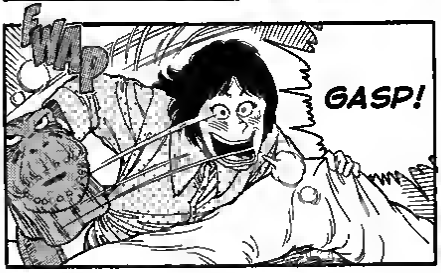



NGRAWW!
NOWW!

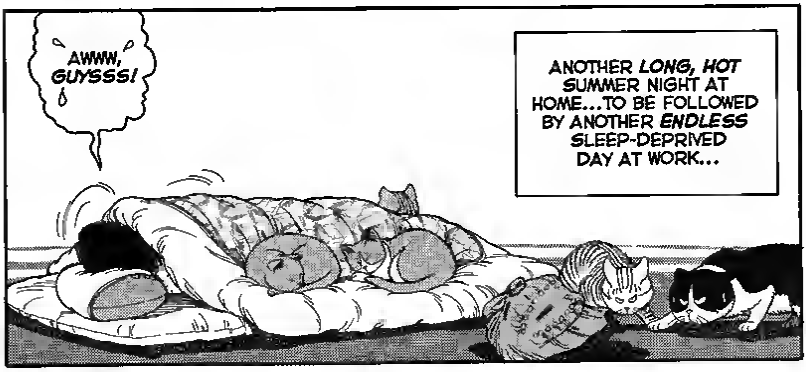

WHSSH



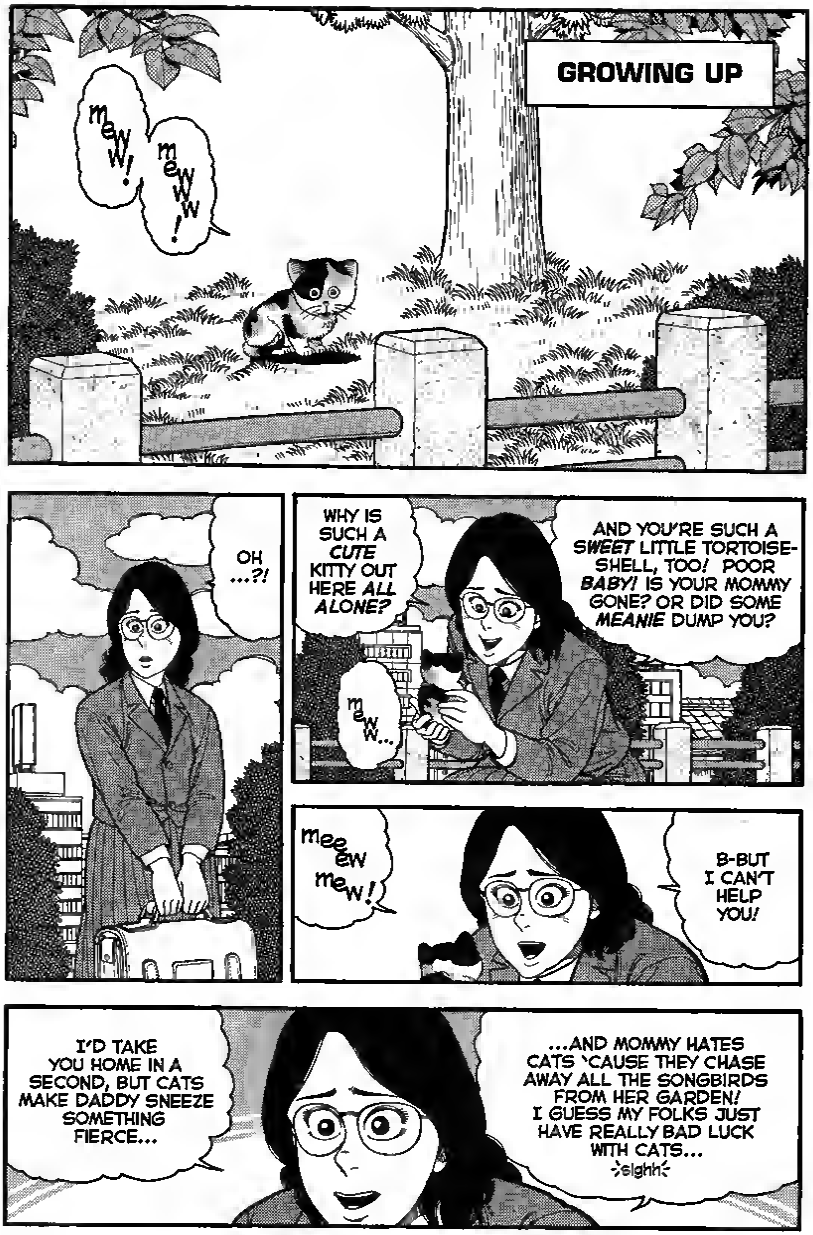
SNIF


FWAP
GASP!

HUFF
HAHH


AWWW, GUYSSS!
ANOTHER LONG, HOT SUMMER NIGHT AT HOME...TO BE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER ENDLESS SLEEP-DEPRIVED DAY AT WORK...

THE END


GROWING UP
mewww!
mewww!
AND YOU'RE SUCH A SWEET LITTLE TORTOISE-SHELL, TOO! POOR BABY! IS YOUR MOMMY GONE? OR DID SOME MEANIE DUMP YOU?
WHY IS SUCH A CUTE KITTY OUT HERE ALL ALONE?
mewww...
OH ...?!
B-BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU!
meeew mew!
...AND MOMMY HATES CATS 'CAUSE THEY CHASE AWAY ALL THE SONGBIRDS FROM HER GARDEN! I GUESS MY FOLKS JUST HAVE REALLY BAD LUCK WITH CATS... -sighh-
I'D TAKE YOU HOME IN A SECOND, BUT CATS MAKE DADDY SNEEZE SOMETHING FIERCE...

OH...
WHAT'S UP, KIMIKO?
HUH?
THREE! FOUR! hff!
HUP! TWO! hff!
OH, WOW. THAT'S ROUGH!
mewm!
WELL, I FOUND THIS KITTY AND IT'S SO CUTE BUT CATS MAKE DADDY SNEEZE SOMETHING FIERCE AND MOMMY'S HATES CATS 'CAUSE THEY CHASE AWAY ALL THE SOMEBIRDS FROM HER GARDEN AND I GUESS MY
OF COURSE! I'VE WANTED A CAT FOREVER, ANYWAY!
OH MY GOSH, REALLY? YOU SURE?!
HE CAN LIVE AT MY FOLKS' RESTAURANT!
WELL, I CAN HELP YA!
THAT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM!
WHAT?!
I TOLD THIS GIRL I'D TAKE CARE OF IT 'CAUSE CATS MAKE HER DADDY SNEEZE SOMETHING FIERCE AND HER MOMMY HATES CATS 'CAUSE THEY CHASE AWAY ALL THE SOMEBIRDS FROM
MY FOLKS' RESTAURANT WAS A LITTLE SUSHI SHOP...
SUSHI

YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF IT-- YOU HAVE TO HELP ME *HERE!*

JUST *DUMP* THAT FILTHY THING SOMEWHERE!

MOOOM! IT'S *NOT* FILTHY, AND THAT WOULD BE *CRUEL!*

GIIAK

WELL, I--!

ah, *WELCOME!* PLEASE COME IN!

HM?

meow ...?

oOoh! HE'S *ADOR-ABLE!!* ♥

ME NEXT!

WHAT A *SUPER CUTIE!* IS HE YOUR CAT...?

UH... ER...

UHM... WHY, *YES!*

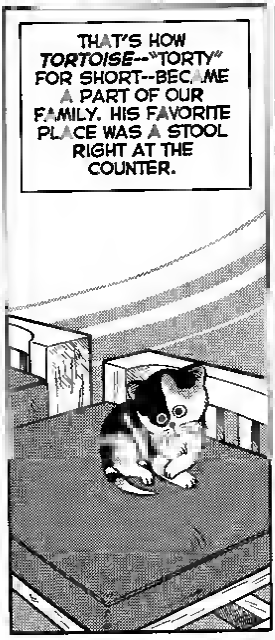
HE IS *MOW...*

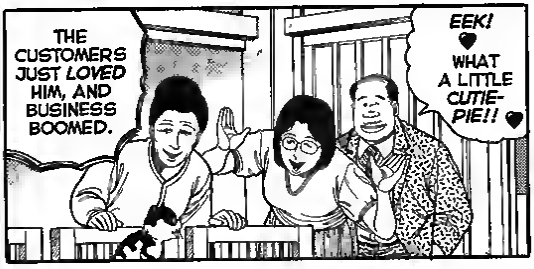
HERE, WIDDLE KITTY-WITTY!

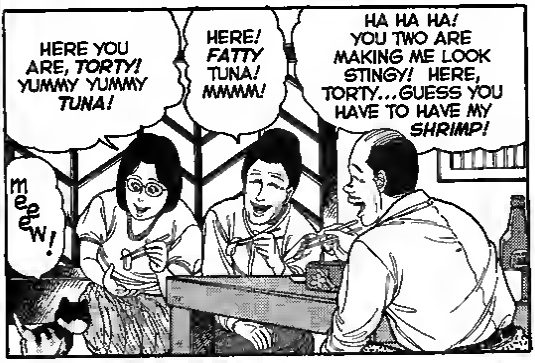
HAVE A BITE OF *SUSHI!*

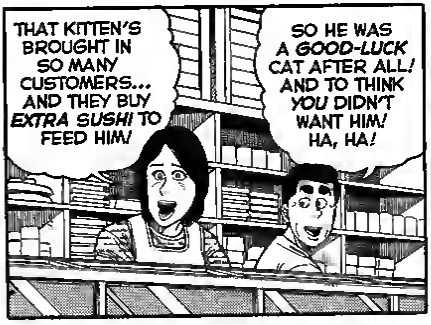
OOH, YOU'RE SO *CUTE ...!*

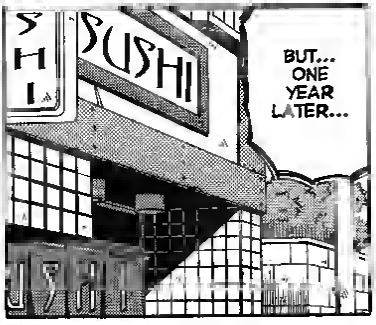
sigh
I STILL DON'T WANT A CAT...BUT IF THE CUSTOMERS LOVE HIM SO MUCH....
OH, VERY WELL! WE'LL KEEP HIM!
YA-HOO!!


THAT'S HOW TORTOISE--"TORTY" FOR SHORT--BECAME A PART OF OUR FAMILY. HIS FAVORITE PLACE WAS A STOOL RIGHT AT THE COUNTER.


THE CUSTOMERS JUST LOVED HIM, AND BUSINESS BOOMED.
EEK! WHAT A LITTLE CUTIE-PIE!!

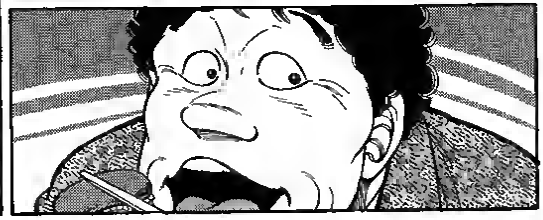

HERE YOU ARE, TORTY! YUMMY YUMMY TUNA!
HERE! FATTY TUNA! MMMM!
HA HA HA! YOU TWO ARE MAKING ME LOOK STINGY! HERE, TORTY...GUESS YOU HAVE TO HAVE MY SHRIMP!
meeew!

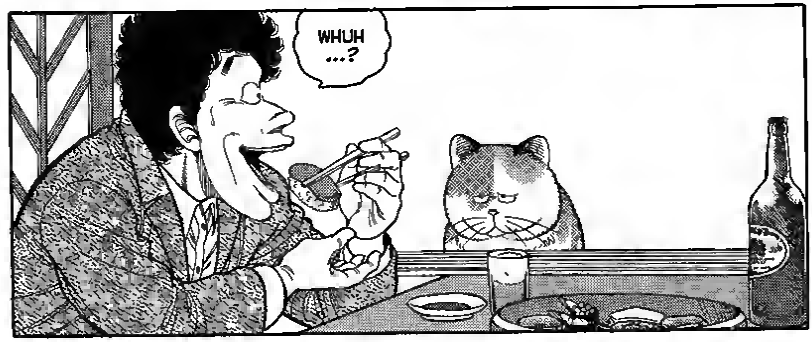

THAT KITTEN'S BROUGHT IN SO MANY CUSTOMERS... AND THEY BUY EXTRA SUSHI TO FEED HIM!
SO HE WAS A GOOD-LUCK CAT AFTER ALL! AND TO THINK YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM! HA, HA!

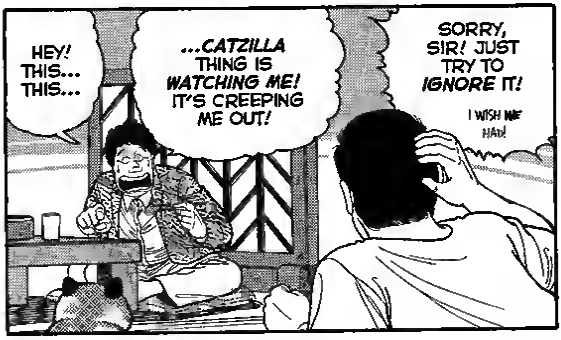

SUSHI
BUT... ONE YEAR LATER...

KCHAK
C'MON IN!
HOLY--?!?!
WH... WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
WELL, UH... WE CALL IT "CATZILLA"...
N-NO KIDDIN'...!
....?
DEAR CUSTOMERS: PLEASE DON'T FEED THE CATZILLA! --THE MANAGEMENT
Y-YEAH - GOOD IDEA!

HERE YOU ARE! THE DAILY SPECIAL!
THANKS MUCH.

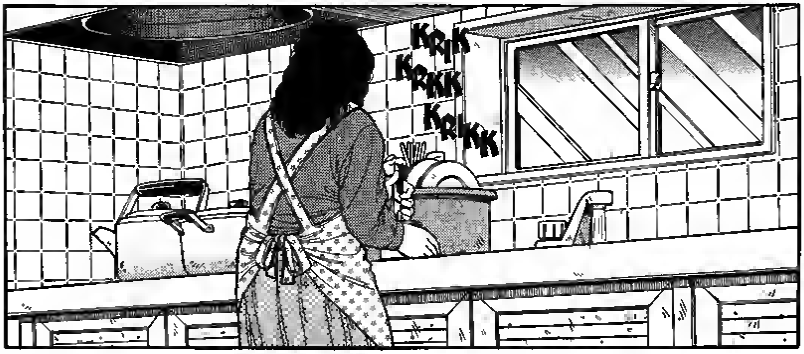



WHUH ...?

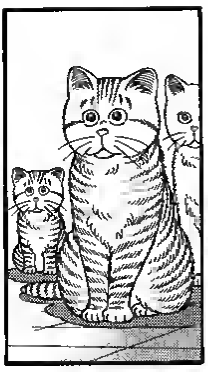

HEY! THIS... THIS...
...CATZILLA THING IS WATCHING ME! IT'S CREEPING ME OUT!
SORRY, SIR! JUST TRY TO IGNORE IT!
I WISH WE HAD!

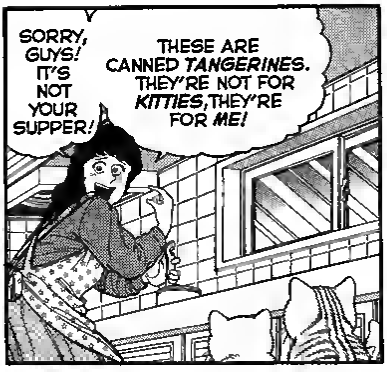
THE END

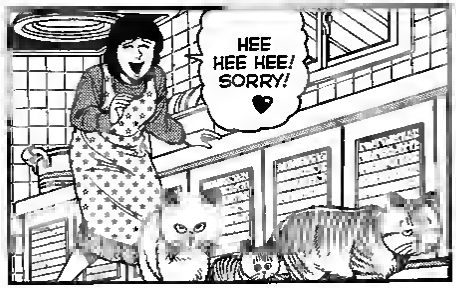
A HARD DAY'S LIFE

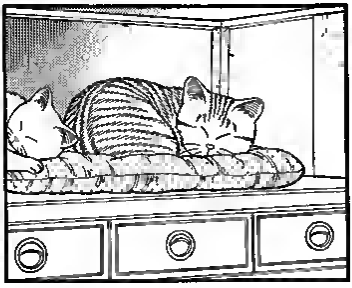


OH ...!




SORRY, GUYS! IT'S NOT YOUR SUPPER!
THESE ARE CANNED *TANGERINES*. THEY'RE NOT FOR *KITTIES*, THEY'RE FOR *ME*!

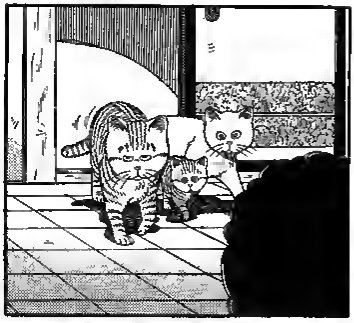

HEE HEE HEE! SORRY!

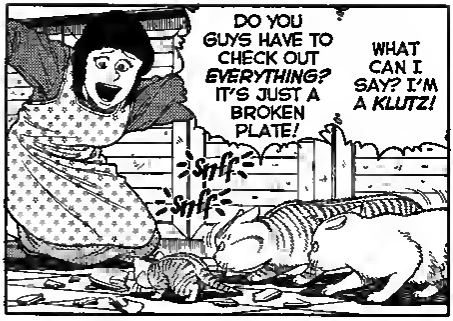


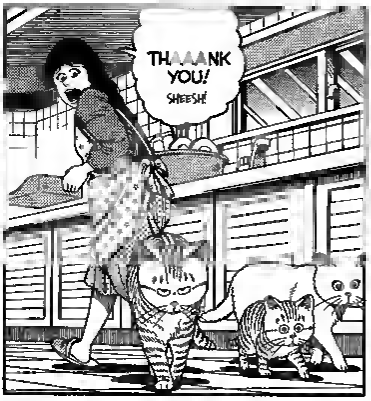
EEK!!
SKRASSH

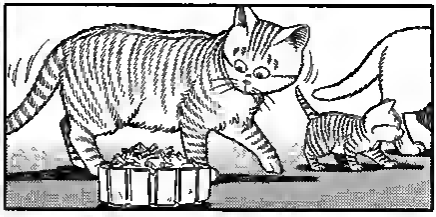
DARN IT! THIS IS THE *THIRD* PLATE THIS MONTH!

HUH ...?

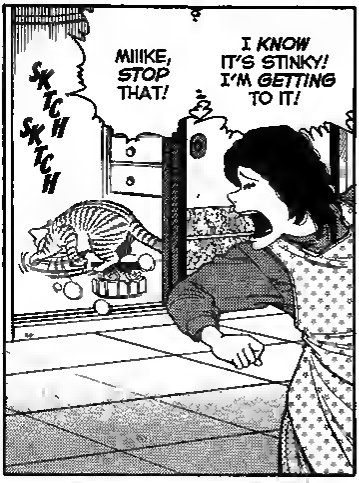


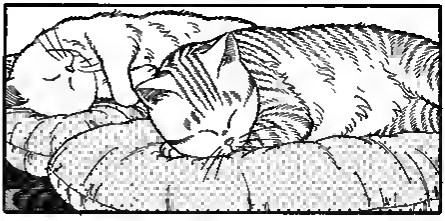

DO YOU GUYS HAVE TO CHECK OUT *EVERYTHING?* IT'S JUST A BROKEN PLATE!
WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M A *KLUTZ!*
Snff
Snff

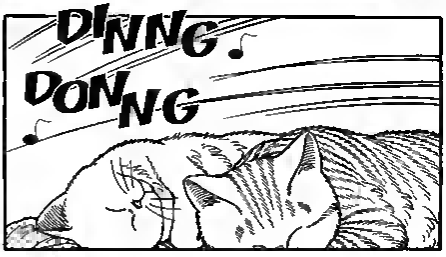

THAAAANK YOU!
SHEESH!



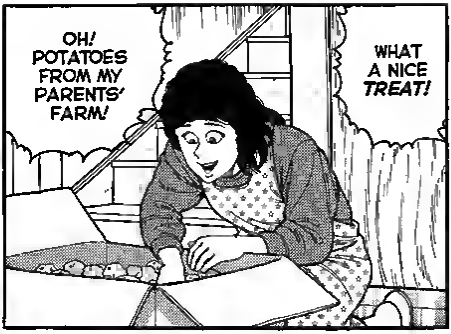
SNFF ...?


MIIIKE, STOP THAT!
I *KNOW* IT'S STINKY! I'M *GETTING* TO IT!
SKTCH
SKTCH

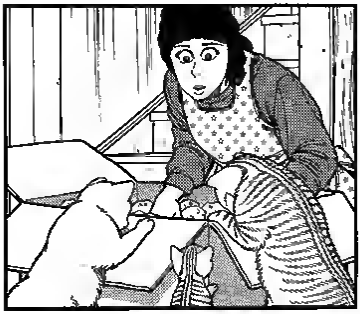


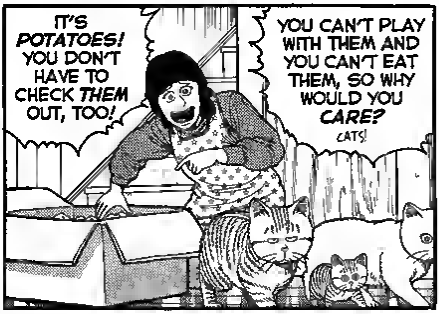

DINNG.
DONNG

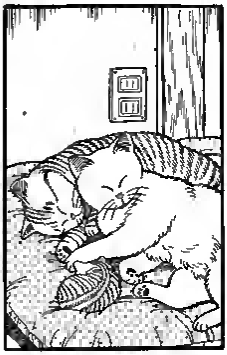
NEED A SIGNATURE, MA'AM.
OF COURSE! THANKS FOR CARRYING THEM UP THE STAIRS!


OH! POTATOES FROM MY PARENTS' FARM!
WHAT A NICE *TREAT!*

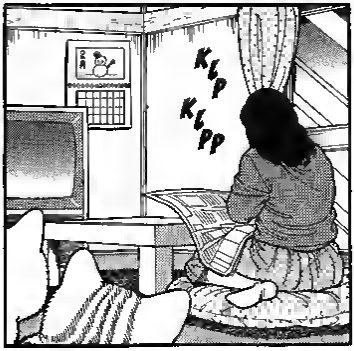
AH ...?



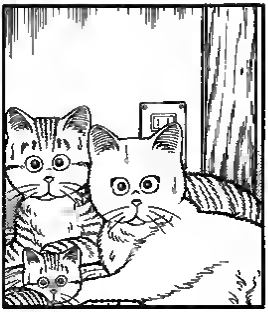

IT'S *POTATOES!* YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHECK *THEM* OUT, TOO!
YOU CAN'T PLAY WITH THEM AND YOU CAN'T EAT THEM, SO WHY WOULD YOU *CARE?*
(ATS)



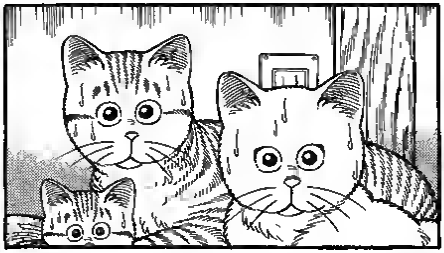
KLPP KLPP KLPP

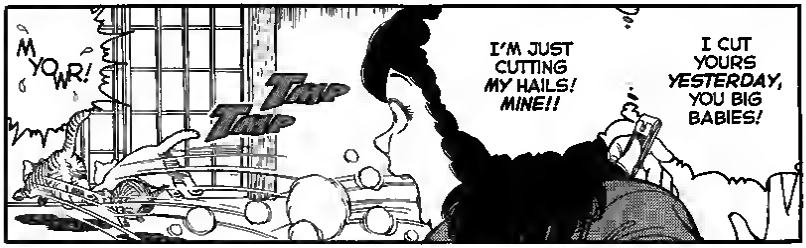

KLP KLPP

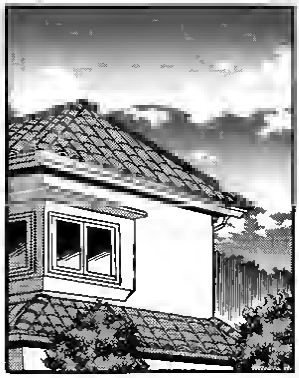
KLPP
KLLP

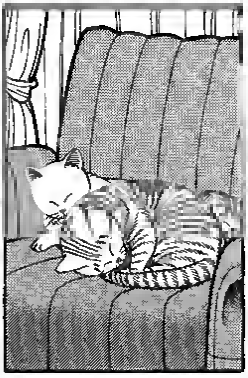


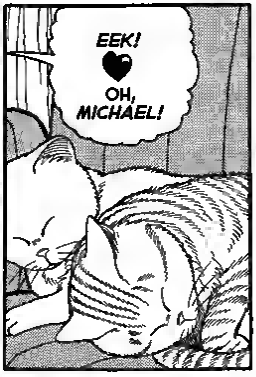
WHAT ...? WHAT?!

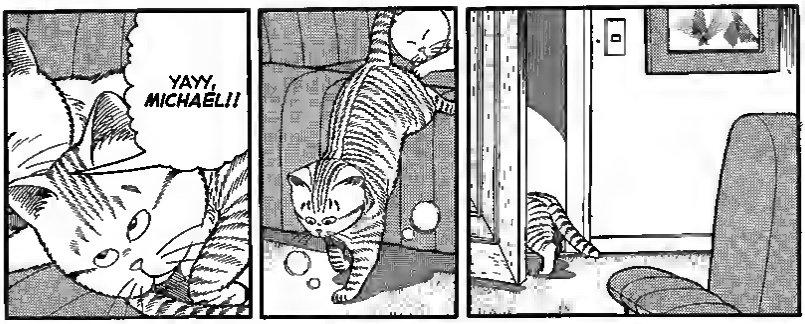


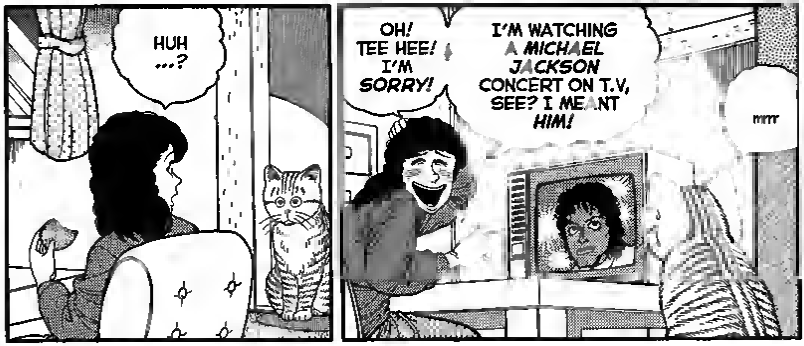

MYOWR!
TAP TAP
I'M JUST CUTTING MY HAILS! MINE!!
I CUT YOURS YESTERDAY, YOU BIG BABIES!

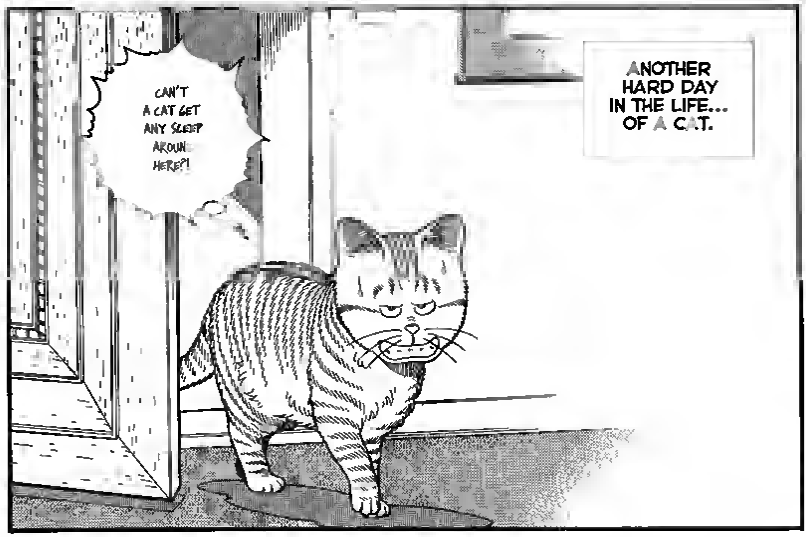




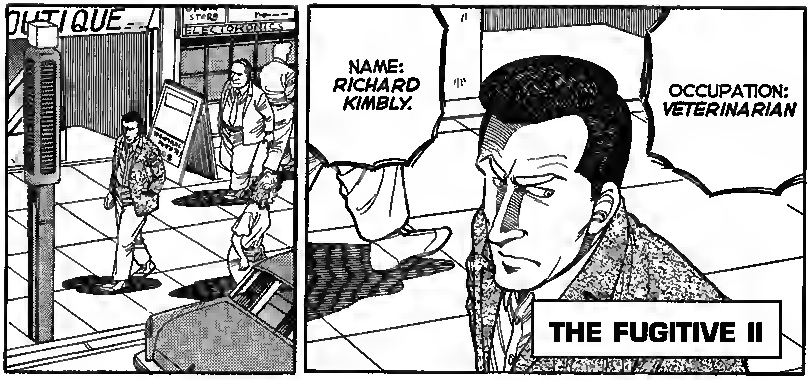

EEK!
OH, MICHAEL!

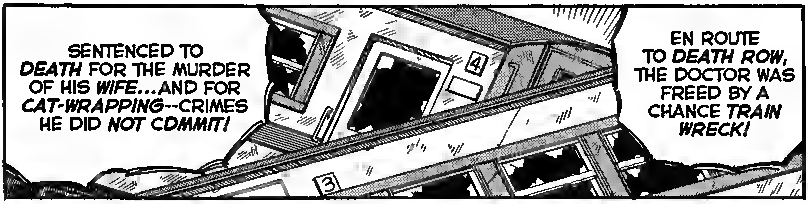

YAYY, MICHAEL!!

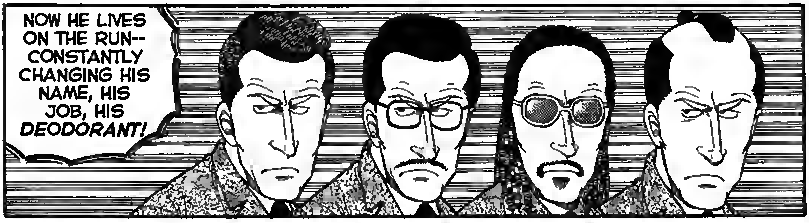

HUH ...?
OH! TEE HEE! I'M SORRY!
I'M WATCHING A MICHAEL JACKSON CONCERT ON T.V, SEE? I MEANT HIM!
mmm


CAN'T A CAT GET ANY SLEEP AROUND HERE?!
ANOTHER HARD DAY IN THE LIFE... OF A CAT.

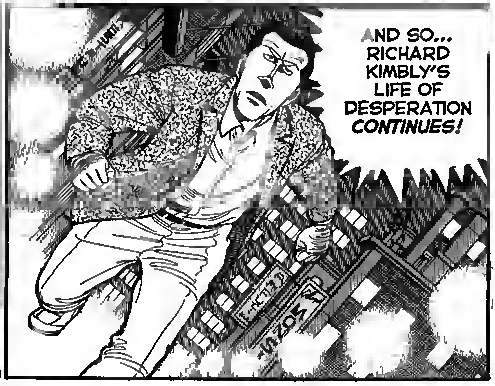
THE END


STERO
ELECTRONICS
NAME: RICHARD KIMBLY.
OCCUPATION: VETERINARIAN
THE FUGITIVE II


SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE...AND FOR CAT-WRAPPING--CRIMES HE DID NOT COMMIT!
EN ROUTE TO DEATH ROW, THE DOCTOR WAS FREED BY A CHANCE TRAIN WRECK!


NOW HE LIVES ON THE RUN--CONSTANTLY CHANGING HIS NAME, HIS JOB, HIS DEODORANT!

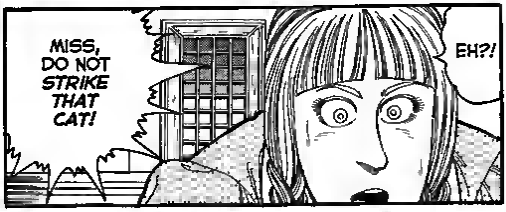
THE RELENTLESS LT. GERARDLY ALWAYS MERE MOMENTS BEHIND HIM!


AND SO... RICHARD KIMBLY'S LIFE OF DESPERATION CONTINUES!

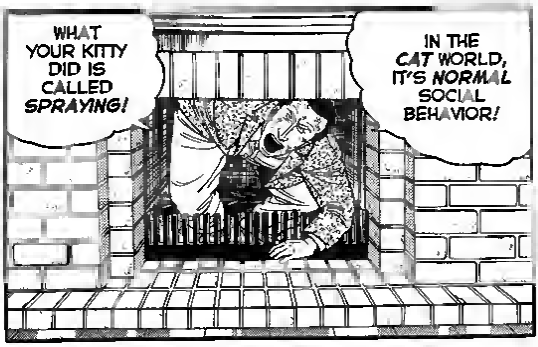
AHG! YOU DID IT AGAIN! BAD KITTY!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?!
DON'T PEE ON THE FURNITURE!
YOWRR!

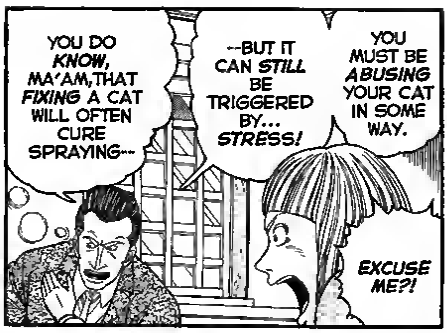
STUPID, STUPID KITTY!
WHAK
KRAK
YOWL! NYOWR!


MISS, DO NOT STRIKE THAT CAT!
EH?!

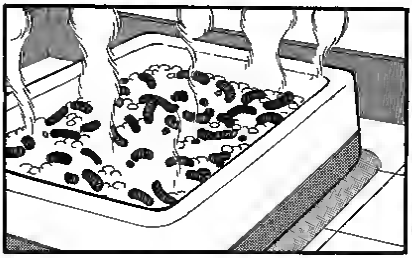
WH- WHO'S THERE?

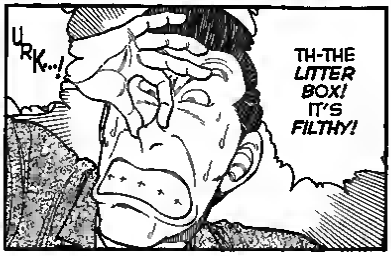

WHAT YOUR KITTY DID IS CALLED SPRAYING!
IN THE CAT WORLD, IT'S NORMAL SOCIAL BEHAVIOR!

EEK!!
WHO ARE YOU?!
JUST A PASSING FUGIT...ER, I MEAN STRANGER, WHO HEARD A KITTY IN DISTRESS!

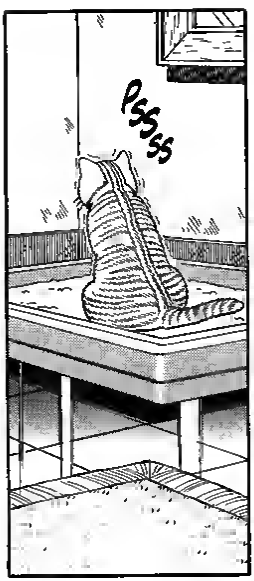

YOU DO KNOW, MA'AM, THAT FIXING A CAT WILL OFTEN CURE SPRAYING---
--BUT IT CAN STILL BE TRIGGERED BY... STRESS!
YOU MUST BE ABUSING YOUR CAT IN SOME WAY.
EXCUSE ME?!

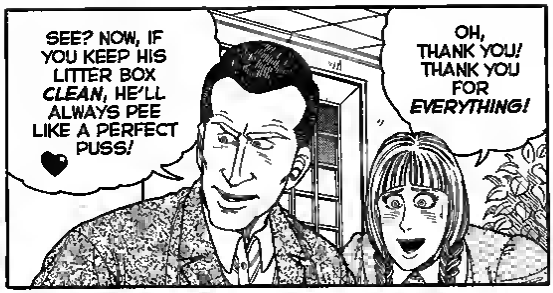
SNIFF!



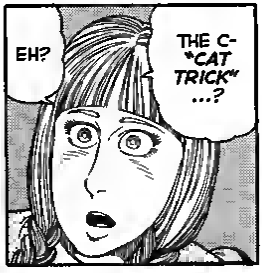

URK...!
TH-THE LITTER BOX! IT'S FILTHY!

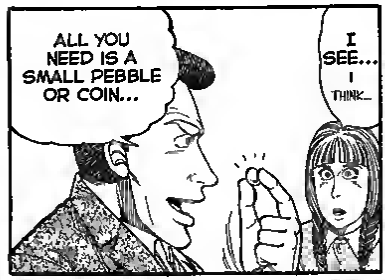
DON'T YOU KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT CATS? YOU HAVE TO SCOOP THE FECES OUT OF THE BOX AND ADD FRESH LITTER OFTEN!
YOU'RE TO BLAME FOR THE SPRAYING!
OH!! I- I'M SO SORRY!!

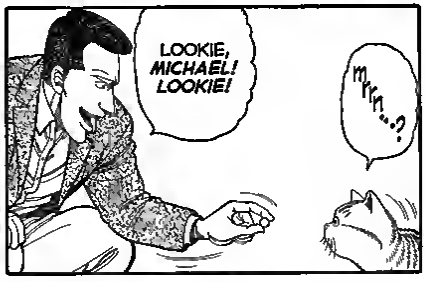

PSSSSS

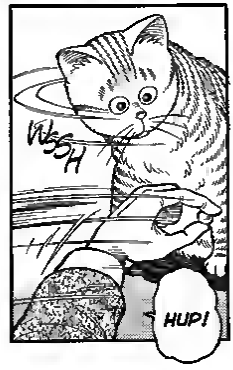

SEE? NOW, IF YOU KEEP HIS LITTER BOX CLEAN, HE'LL ALWAYS PEE LIKE A PERFECT PUSS!
OH, THANK YOU! THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

NOW... THERE'S ONE LAST THING.
I MUST TEACH YOU... THE CAT TRICK!

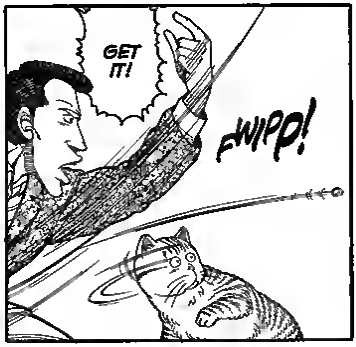

EH?
THE C-"CAT TRICK" ...?

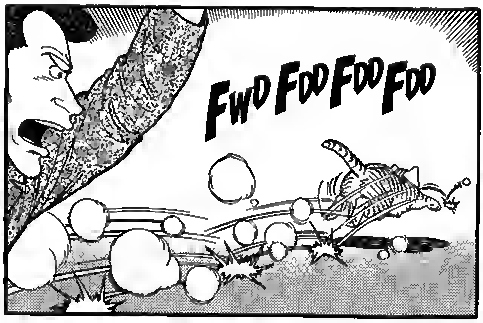

ALL YOU NEED IS A SMALL PEBBLE OR COIN...
I SEE... I THINK...

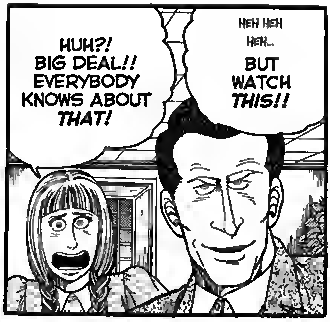

LOOKIE, MICHAEL! LOOKIE!
mrm...?

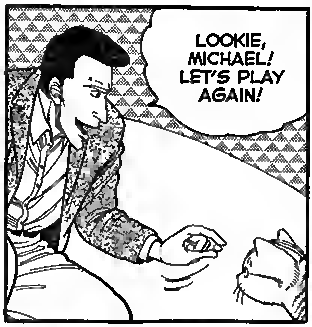

WSSSH
HUP!

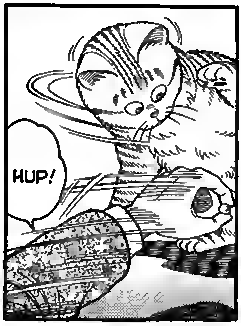
WSSSH
HO!

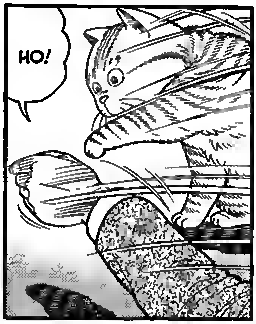

GET IT!
FWIPP!

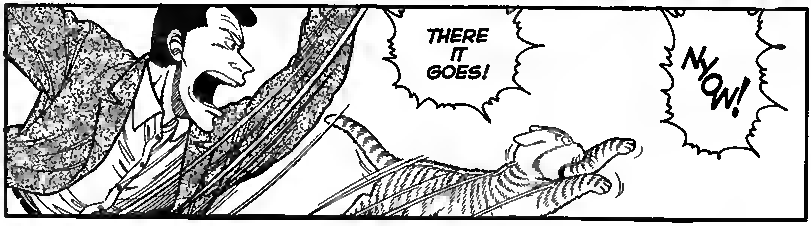

FWD FDD FDD FDD

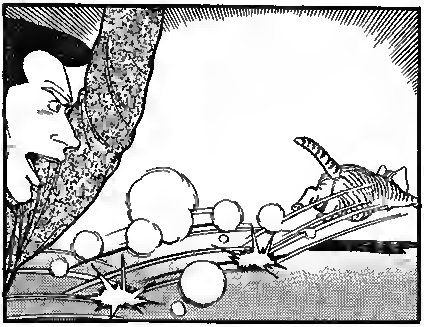

HUH?! BIG DEAL!! EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT THAT!
HEH HEH HEH... BUT WATCH THIS!!

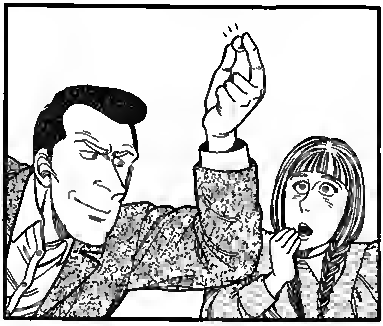

LOOKIE, MICHAEL! LET'S PLAY AGAIN!

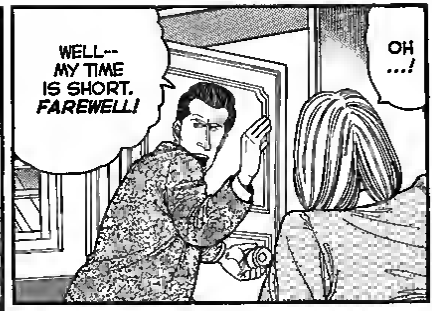

HUP!

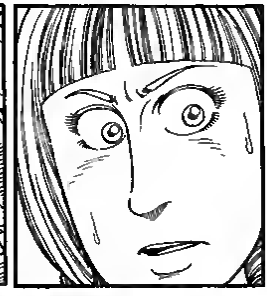

HO!


THERE IT GOES!
N/OW!



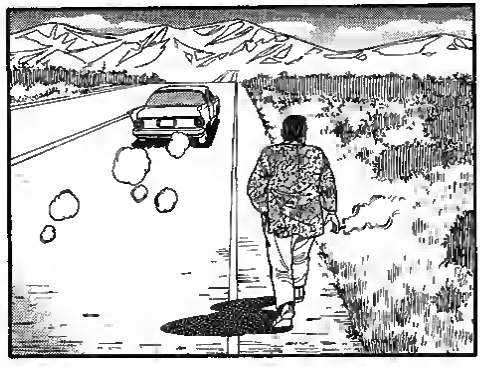


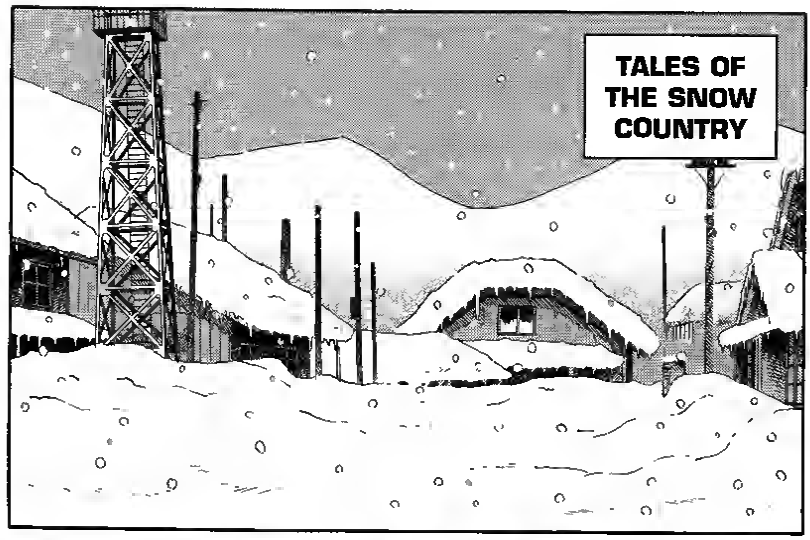


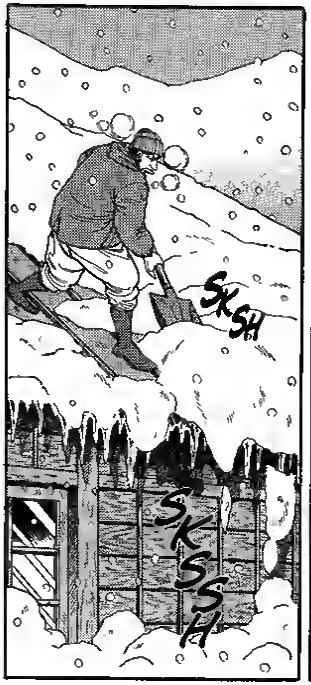


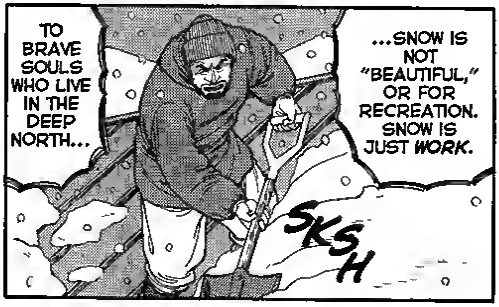
RUN! *RUN LIKE THE WIND, DR.* RICHARD KIMBLY!

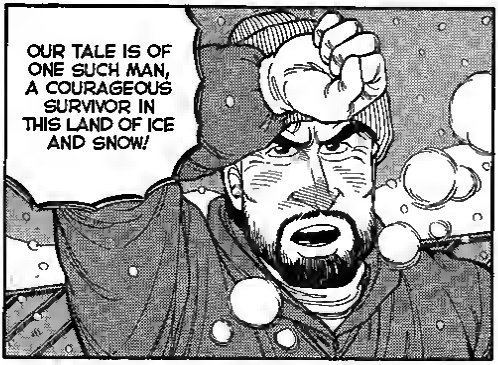
FOR THERE WILL NEVER, EVER BE REST FOR...*THE FUGITIVE!*



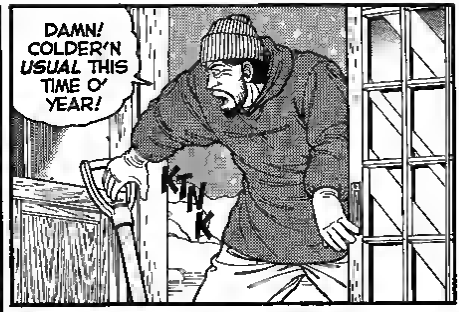

TALES OF THE SNOW COUNTRY


SKSH
SKSSH

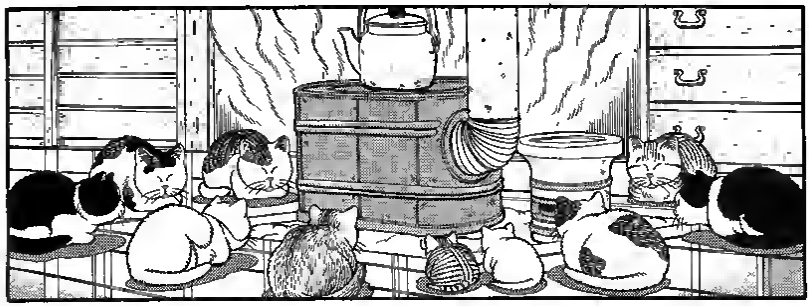

TO BRAVE SOULS WHO LIVE IN THE DEEP NORTH...
...SNOW IS NOT "BEAUTIFUL," OR FOR RECREATION. SNOW IS JUST *WORK*.
SKSH

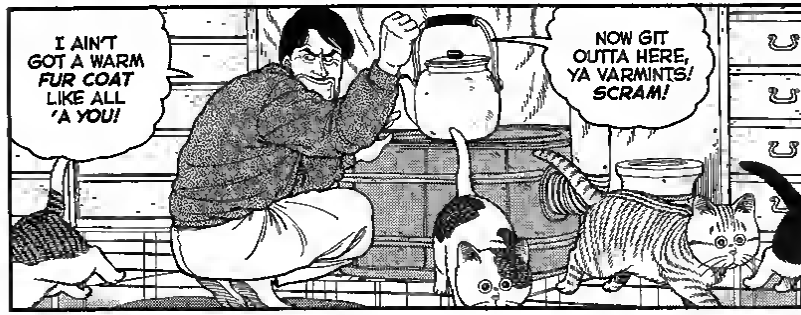

OUR TALE IS OF ONE SUCH MAN, A COURAGEOUS SURVIVOR IN THIS LAND OF ICE AND SNOW!

HON, IT'LL BE DARK SOON!
COME IN AND WARM UP BEFORE DINNER!
GREAT!


DAMN! COLDER'N USUAL THIS TIME O' YEAR!
KTNK

HRRM ...?

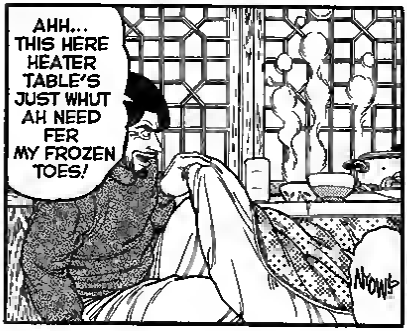


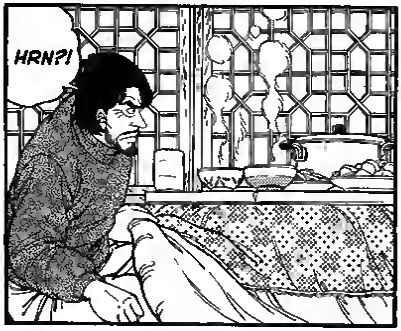

I AIN'T GOT A WARM FUR COAT LIKE ALL 'A YOU!
NOW GIT OUTTA HERE, YA VARMINTS! SCRAM!

BR RR!

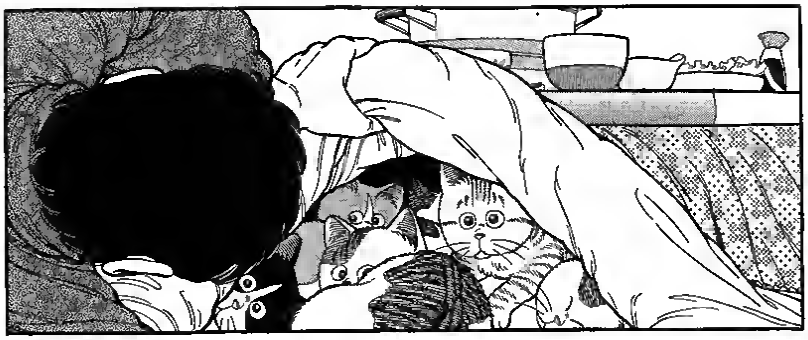
HONEY!
DINNER'S ON THE TABLE! C'MON, EAT BEFORE IT GETS COLD!
YO!

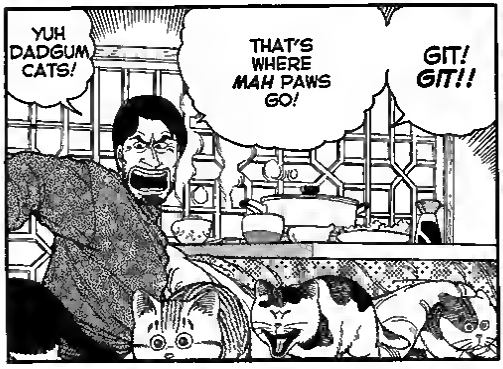
HRRN... STILL DAMN COLD!
MEBBE HOT GRUB'LL WARM MY BONES!

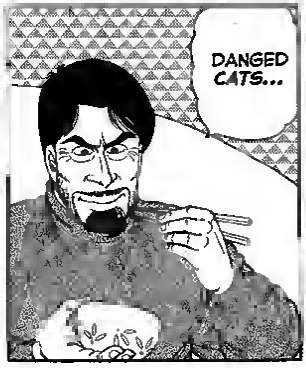

AHH... THIS HERE HEATER TABLE'S JUST WHUT AH NEED FER MY FROZEN TOES!
NNOMS


HRN?!

.....
.....

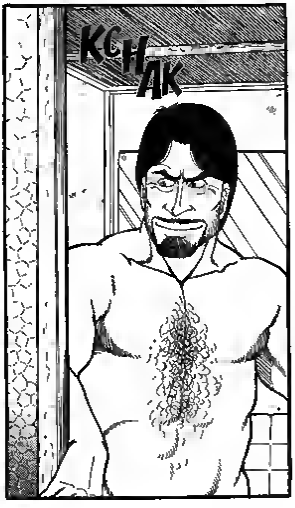


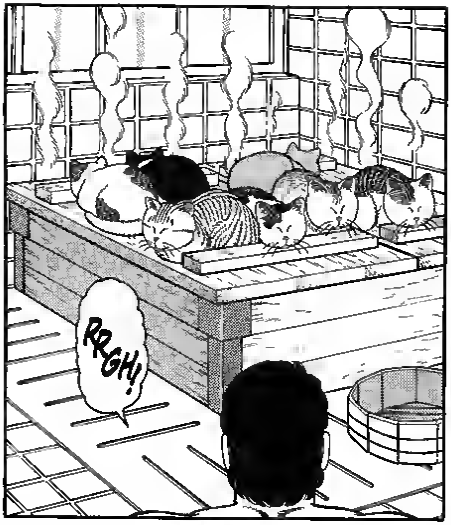

YUH DADGUM CATS!
THAT'S WHERE MAH PAWS GO!
GIT! GIT!!


DANGED CATS...

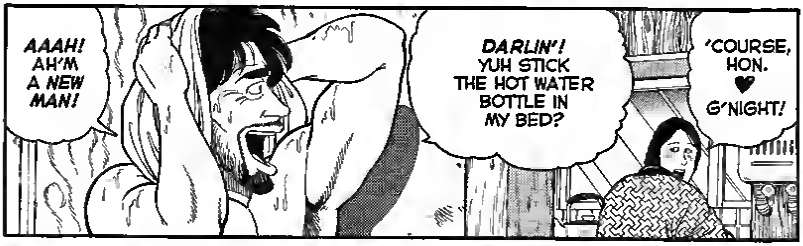
YOUR BATH'S READY, HON-- NICE AND HOT!
MMM!

YEAH... A SOAK, AND THEN TH' SACK!
HMM HMMM HMMM HMM


KCHAK


RRGH!

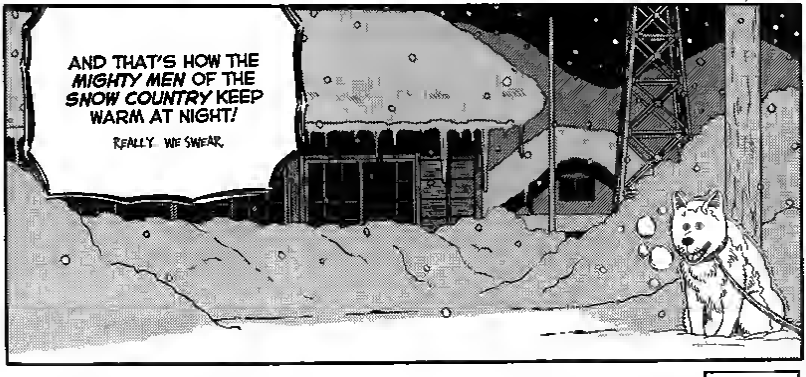
GIT OFFA THET BATHTUB COVER!
YA THINK AH WANT MUH BATH WATER ALL FULL 'A CAT HAIRS?!


AAAH! AH'M A NEW MAN!
DARLIN'! YUH STICK THE HOT WATER BOTTLE IN MY BED?
'COURSE, HON. ♥ G'NIGHT!

YEAH! TIME FER SHUT-EYE...

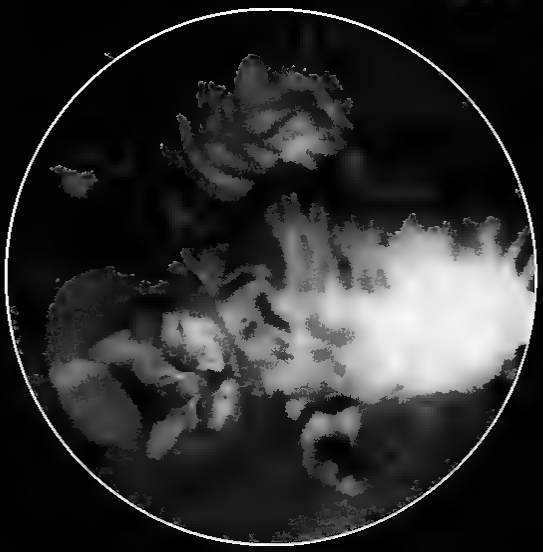
HEH HEH HEH!
FINALLY YUH DAMN HAIRBALLS ARE WHERE AH WANT YUH!

AHMMM! ♥
NICE N' TOASTY!


AND THAT'S HOW THE MIGHTY MEN OF THE SNOW COUNTRY KEEP WARM AT NIGHT!
REALLY. WE SWEAR.

THE END

Lady Kobayashi, *Female*



No, this isn't some drunk raccoon sleeping it off. This is Lady, Hogan's wife, and the model for Michael's wife, Popo.

Right now she's carrying a bit of weight, but when she was young she was one beautiful cat. She's a prideful creature indeed, refuses to toady to humans, and is all-around the most catlike of all our cats. But since – Did I mention this already? – she has put on a little weight, I'm always surprised when I see her looking like this (even though I see her every day).

I know it wasn't polite to laugh, Lady, but when our eyes met, I just couldn't help myself. Sorry! You know, it's okay to ask for attention now and then. Even when you're not cold and hungry, my Lady.

— Makoto Kobayashi

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